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AND China Overland Trade Report.

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CONTENTS.

Epitome of the Week, &c.	320
Leading Articles:—	
Misapprehensions and Mistakes about China	322
Old and New Policy in China	322
The Kwangtung Revolt	323
The Anglo-German Agreement	323
The Elections	323
The Crisis: Telegrams	324
Hongkong Legislative Council	324
Hongkong Sanitary Board	325
Supreme Court	327
The Crisis in China	327
Occasional Notes	328
Hongkong Volunteers in Camp	329
The Murders and Piracy on the <i>Nao-chau</i>	329
Concert at St. George's Hall	329
The Staunton Street Backyards Case	330
Soldiers and Sailors' China Relief Fund	330
Changes in the Pacific Mail Company	330
Singapore Estimates for 1901	330
Macao	330
Canton	331
Manila	331
Correspondence	332
Alice and Netherlands Hospitals	332
China Traders' Insurance Company, Limited	332
The Dairy Farm Company, Limited	333
Cricket	333
Football	333
Hongkong Volunteer Corps	333
A New Magazine	333
The Fire on the <i>Rohilla</i>	334
The German Circular Note to the Powers	334
Curious Story From Peking	334
Foochow	334
Hongkong and Port News	335
Commercial	337
Shipping	340

BIRTHS.

At the American Pres. Mission School House, Kanazawa, Japan, on the 4th October, the wife of THOMAS D. BEGG, Kuling, of a son.

On the 17th October, at No. 5, Caine Road, the wife of Captain J. F. MESSER, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

At Christ Church, Rangoon, on the 26th September, 1900, WILLIAM RUSSEL WELLS, Assistant Engineer, P.W.D., Burma, to ALICE LOUISE, the second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jno. E. G. VILLA.

On Wednesday, the 10th October, 1900, at All Saints' Church, Tientsin, by the Rev. H. Mathews, EDWARD BRIDGE LEES, eldest son of the Rev. Jonathan LEES, of Tientsin, to MARY BEATRICE, eldest daughter of the late P. L. MARTEN, Esq., and of Mrs. MARTEN, of Great Berkhamstead, Herts.

On the 23rd October, at the Peak Church, Hongkong, by the Rev. E. F. Cobbold, HERBERT E. TOMKINS, to MURIEL, daughter of the late Arthur ANDERSON.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The American mail of the 22nd September arrived, per T. K. K. steamer *Nippon Maru*, on the 20th October (28 days); and the French mail of the 23rd September arrived, per M. M. steamer *Tonkin*, on the 23rd October (30 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Vice-Admiral Sir E. H. Seymour returned to Shanghai on Wednesday from Taku.

The newly-appointed Belgian Chargé d'Affaires to Siam, M. Le Vionnois, arrived at Bangkok on the 5th inst.

The announcement is made from St. Petersburg that Prince Gagarin has been appointed Russian Consul at Nagasaki.

Auctions of British "loot" were going on briskly at Peking in the early part of this month. The Prize Fund amounted at the end of last month to upwards of \$50,000.

News from Kwangtung province tells of the continued success of the rebels. Details will be found on another page. Last night, however, news of an Imperialist victory came to hand.

General MacArthur, the new Military Governor of the Philippine Islands, has contracted fever in Manila. The latest reports, however, show that the attack is not a serious one.

A London telegram of the 22nd instant announced that the *Globe* understands that "Britain" has leased from the harbour works contractors the port of Chingwantao for eight months.

The report that the Imperial Court had already reached Hsianfu was incorrect, as later news arrived on Wednesday that it was still on the borders of Shansi and Shensi, at the town of Tungkuan.

The French military transport *Caravane*, an old vessel pressed into use during the present crisis, was sunk near Kobe at the beginning of this week after a collision with the Japanese *Yamaguchi Maru*. Three men from the *Caravane* were drowned.

According to a German trade journal, the value of military rifles exported from Germany to China in 1899 was Tls. 4,400,000, against Tls. 1,400,000 in 1898; artillery fuses, Tls. 2,500,000, as compared with Tls. 1,500,000 in 1899; and gunpowder Tls. 900,000, as against Tls. 500,000 in 1899.

Viscount Aoki, the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs, has not followed in the wake of the Premier and other ministers, who tendered their resignations, for, it is said, he has deemed it advisable not to leave the portfolio under existing diplomatic circumstances until a new Ministry has been organised.

M. Pichon, French Minister at Peking, has replied to the Chinese Note that hostilities cannot cease until the heads of Prince Tuan, Kang-yi, and Tung Fuhsiang have fallen. Last Saturday the report was telegraphed from Shanghai of the suicide of Kung-yi, but the news was considered doubtful.

A Seoul telegram dated the 10th inst. states that, through the medium of the Japanese Minister to Corea, Mr. Shidehara, Director of the Japanese Middle Academy in Yamanashi, has been engaged by the Corean Government as an instructor in the newly established Seoul Academy. The salary is stated to be Yen 200 per month.

The *N.-C. Daily News*, referring to the report that Tao Mu, who was transferred recently from the Viceroyalty of the Shen-Kan to that of the Two Kwang provinces, has sent in to the Empress Dowager a memorial resigning his new post on account of old age and chronic illness, says: The Empress Dowager's rescript has, however, not yet been received by the memorialist. Apropos of the above, it is stated in local mandarin circles that, should Viceroy Tao Mu be permitted to resign, the next Viceroy of the Two Kwang provinces will probably be Ting Chen-tu, at present Governor of Yunnan.

In view of the nature of the country the siege train sent to China from the Cape will probably be sent back home, leaving their equipments and armaments—4 inch and 7 inch guns and bullocks—in India en route.

According to Japanese papers, while the personnel of the new Cabinet is still entirely unknown, it is understood that it has been decided so far that Count Inouye and Mr. Kato, formerly Minister to St. James's, will be admitted to the Ministry to hold the portfolios of the Minister of Finance and the Minister for Foreign Affairs respectively.

The new Japanese constitutional Political Association is about to publish an organ called the *Seiyu*, under the editorship of Mr. Shiga Juko. Messrs. Zumoto (of the *Japan Times*), Asahina (of the *Tokyo Nichi Nichi*), and Tokutomi (of the *Kohumin*), with other well-known writers as advisers. Marquis Saionji will have supreme control.

Russian emigrants to Eastern Siberia, it is stated from a St. Petersburg source, are undergoing great hardships, owing to the Chinese outbreak. The refugees from Manchuria filled Irkutsk and other towns already packed with emigrants. The barracks are full to overflowing, and in the railway stations men, women, and children are camping out without proper shelter, but fearful of missing any chance of escaping by the railway to some town where their misery will be less.

We have received a letter signed "A Reformer," which unfortunately we cannot publish in the absence of our correspondent's name as a guarantee. We may, however, mention that the writer, referring to our remark about the evil associations in Hongkong of the name of Triad, says: "There are black sheep in every fold. How can it be helped with the Triads, who number millions and millions? . . . This is a civilised movement, and Chinese who have been trained and educated in the West will be prominent actors."

Although a new anti-foreign Taotai has been appointed by the Imperial Government to Shanghai, he has not yet proceeded to take up his post. It is thought that the earnest prayers of the leading natives at Shanghai have induced Viceroy Liu Kung-yi to delay sending him on. The new appointment of the anti-foreign Yu Chang to the Governorship of Hupeh has caused great alarm among the loyal officials, and the story obtains that the Shanghai Consuls have been appealed to by the Viceroy at Wuchang to protest, as otherwise troubles in the Yangtze Valley are certain to follow.

Some alarm has been aroused in Java by the Chinese there exercising lately, reports the *Straits Times*, in a striking manner their power of combination. At Samarang this was shown when, at a performance of Hariston's circus, Mr. Leve, the manager, called a Chinaman who had bought a ticket to book for obstruction in the tent. The result was such resentment that no Chinaman would visit the circus. The Chinese boycott then marred the circus at Solo, an interior town: at other places visited by the circus the Chinese to a man shunned the performances. This has started the cry of the Yellow Peril in Java. The circus incident is held to point to the existence in Java of a secret Chinese organisation, the members of which are kept under strict discipline.

MISAPPREHENSIONS AND MIS- TAKES ABOUT CHINA.

(Daily Press, 24th October.)

The failure of the artists in the illustrated papers to grasp and portray the characteristic features of the Chinese is typical of the ignorance prevailing at home with regard to China generally. A Japanese girl serving in a Chinese tea-shop and a "Boxer" leader mounted on a CATON WOODVILLE horse of at least seventeen hands are not a bit more exaggerated than LO FENG-LUH's statement that "an Imperial Edict cannot lie." And yet both seem to be accepted by the public at home as being a truthful record of things as they are in China. The Government are no better informed; but relying on the general ignorance they feel that they can with safety assume an attitude of passive resistance to the demands of that small portion of the people who, more fully posted than their neighbours, ask that a steady and lasting policy should be adopted and carried out in the Far East. Two reasons can, in a measure, be given for the neglect of interests vital to the trading classes of England; in addition to the one of general ignorance already referred to. The one is the reaction following the pitch of excitement to which the public were worked up by the reported massacre of the inmates of the Legations. The other is the false estimate conveyed to them of the power of a fighting resistance on the part of the Chinese, due to the somewhat unexpected opposition offered by the foreign drilled troops round Tientsin and Peking. Public indignation once excited and finding itself deceived will not be easily raised again, and the fear of rousing what they consider the overwhelming forces of the whole of China act as a deterrent now to those who in their more excited moments would have been advocates of a strong policy at any cost. We say mistaken estimate of the power of fighting resistance advisedly, because, to those who know the country, it is absurd to suppose that the Chinese troops could offer successful resistance for any length of time to the large body of foreign troops that will be under the command of Count VON WALDERSEE. Transport alone precludes any such idea, not to mention the impossibility of the Chinese supplying their soldiers with arms and ammunition when their source of foreign supply is cut off, their principal northern arsenals in the hands of the enemy, and the certainty that their southern ones could be in a few hours reduced to ruins by half a dozen of the allied fleet.

Unfortunately the spirit which actuates the Government at home is reflected by its representatives out here. Never at any time anxious to take up their nationals' interests, owing to the certainty that their action would get no backing from the Foreign Office, their attitude is accentuated by the state of affairs now prevailing in China and the resultant desire to avoid any cause of friction with the provincial officials. Evils which at other times would call forth a protest, feeble indeed, but still a protest, are now allowed to pass unheeded—sacrificed to the bugbear of keeping the Chinese in the central and southern provinces quiet at any cost; regardless of the well-known axiom in Oriental politics that force combined with strict justice is the one thing that commands Eastern obedience and respect. It was not by such a policy as is now being pursued that CLIVE or WARREN HASTINGS were wont to secure the safety of those whom they desire to protect. Swift, sharp retribution following deeds of evil quickly taught even native princes of a

fighting race that it was safer to make a friend than an enemy of that stern hard Englishman whose deeds follow so close on his words, and who, be it friend or foe, never forgot or forgave. Compare this with the nerveless, lifeless attitude we have assumed throughout this struggle. A Minister shut up in Peking seems to have paralysed our Foreign Office, who, instead of at once grasping the situation and giving over the control to the man most fitted to assume charge, left our various representatives throughout China to take such disjointed and individual action as they thought fit, with the result that their general attitude is listless inactivity "relieved only by the expectation of the arrival of the newspaper to learn how things are going on"—as it was not inaptly described by a recent traveller in China. So much for the past and the immediate present; but what about the future? Thinking men will do well to ponder on the causes which have brought about such a state of things, and strenuous efforts must be made in order to force the Government to inaugurate and carry out a policy in support of legitimate British interests in China—a policy which can only be brought into being if backed by the force of strong public opinion at home; and a policy which the appointment of Sir ERNEST SATOW as Minister to Peking gives no guarantee will be adopted and pursued. England must give one of her best and ablest sons to the task now confronting her in China, or, bitterly will she regret in the future her failure to secure that position which the preponderance of her trade justly entitles her to take.

OLD AND NEW POLICY IN CHINA.

(Daily Press, 25th October.)

The letter addressed to the *Times* of the 20th ult. by the correspondent who veils his identity under the pseudonym of "MILES" is a trenchant criticism on past British policy in China, and re-states in concise form the often urged case of those who know the country and the effect of that policy on British interests therein. "MILES" puts forward prominently the inherent mistake in the way in which the authorities at home sought to meet the results of foreign aggression in this quarter of the globe. The main principle of British conduct in reply to German and Russian proceedings in the north, he points out, was not to safeguard our great national interests on the Yangtze, which then we might have done effectually, but to try to counteract the establishment of Russian power at Port Arthur by posting ourselves at Weihaiwei. In so doing we "substituted an indirect object for one of primary importance"—an error not less dangerous, the writer continues, in national policy than in naval or military strategy. At the time when the lease of Weihaiwei was in course of arrangement the same writer pointed out in the *Times* that the theory that one fortress can neutralise another is based upon nothing. However, the Foreign Office approved of the idea, which the Tsungli Yamen pressed upon us to avoid giving anything of more value; and in May, 1898, Mr. GOSCHEN stated in the House of Commons that "an outpost of this kind was of value to those who had the supremacy of the sea, and it was from the point of view that we had supremacy at sea that we should approach what had to be done at Weihaiwei." So we got our "secondary naval base" in Shantung, and since its acquisition experts have wrangled constantly as to its worth. "Only two years have passed," says the writer in the *Times*, "since we adopted the suggestion

"of the Tsungli Yamen in place of taking Chusan, and now I imagine that the man in the street is beginning to realize that what we want in the Far East, if there is any 'balance of power' which must be 'redressed,' is a superior squadron and an 'effective field force.' Possibly, the Admiralty, in not bringing our squadron even up to the standard of that of Germany, may have reckoned a 'secondary' or other base at Weihaiwei as the equivalent of two or three battleships. If so, few students of history will agree with them."

As a result of the events of 1898 we saw two Powers wrest from China with no expenditure of labour very substantial privileges, while we did not take the opportunity of establishing our influence in the region which concerned us most. Germany took an early opportunity to emphasize this, when in the same year, 1898, Count HATZFELDT pointed out to Lord SALISBURY that Germany had acquired "a special position" in Shantung, "whereas, Great Britain not having occupied any place in the Yangtze region, that region is still unreservedly open to German enterprise." A better comment on the failure of our diplomacy could not have been written by the most earnest British critic of his country's Chinese policy. The question now is, What chance is there yet of remedying past errors? To supply a satisfactory answer to this will tax the utmost ingenuity of him who attempts the task. We have declared, too late in the day, for the strict maintenance of China's integrity, and have bound ourselves to act with Germany to secure this end. Our partner, content with the monopoly of all commercial enterprise in one province and the promise of free trade for her nationals elsewhere, enters on the work with a light heart. Great Britain starts handicapped with the result of previous mistakes and follies and relying only on the ability of her traders to hold their own with any possible rivals—an ability on which many do not hesitate to throw great doubt, adducing as arguments the many cases in which our traders in the last few years have allowed themselves to be supplanted by more supple and better trained competitors, and the notorious neglect by British Government officials of the interests of the commercial men who look to them for support. Viewed then in the light of the events of the last three years, the Anglo-German Agreement seems one-sided. But it is at least as good an Agreement as we could hope for, provided that it is strictly carried into effect. We are told that many of the home newspapers doubt its utility, unless it be made retrospective. If by this is meant unless the past seizures of Chinese territory be restored, it is plain that those journals have nothing to hope from the Agreement, for it is certain that no Power has any intention of receding from the positions gained by it in China. If it refers, on the other hand, merely to recent occurrences—that is to say, in short, to the annexation by Russia of the south bank of the Amur—all that can be said is that, if the Agreement does not cover this, the two contracting Powers are about to make another concession to their fear of Russia. The reason for such a concession is to seek. It may well suit Germany's book to yield in this matter, which concerns her but little, with Shantung awaiting her exploitation and free competition in the centre and south guaranteed and a good understanding with Russia in Europe to be cultivated. But the consent of Britain to this aggrandisement of Russia at the expense of China will not lead to any better state of feeling between the two Powers. True, it

will be consistent with our previous policy in the matter of Port Arthur; but such a consistency will only be an intolerable disgrace. Looking at the question from a purely practical point of view, which the late Government has never done, what is the advantage of our playing Russia's game in North China? We are not afraid of the accusation of Russophobia. The real Russophobes are those who cannot make up their minds to protest against the invariable advantage which falls to Russia's lot in each new Chinese complication and thereby leave their country less able each time to make such a protest.

THE KWANGTUNG REVOLT.

(Daily Press, 22nd October.)

Our Canton correspondent's letter puts a more serious appearance on the state of affairs in Kwangtung province than it has yet worn. Since the recapture of Weichow by the Imperialists the rebels seem to have recovered the ground lost and to be gaining large accessions to their numbers. The Canton report makes them out to be about twenty thousand strong now, and among their ranks are many deserters from the Imperial army, who being members of the Triad Society turned their arms against their comrades on the battlefield and completed the rout of the Government troops. The rebels are mainly Hakkas and Tungkun men; their leader is SUN YAT-SEN, whose rescue in London some time ago from the hands of the agents of the Chinese Government created such a sensation, and they are reputed to have obtained their funds from the Chinese of Singapore and America, who form the backbone of the Triad Society. They would appear to be well-armed, to judge from the success with which they have met. Where their weapons were obtained, we do not know; but it is highly probable that the extensive arms-smuggling before the outbreak of the present crisis in the north accounts for a great number. The objects of the rebels are very clearly defined. The principal end to which their efforts are directed is the subversion of the Manchus. The officials who fall into their hands receive no mercy. With this attack on the ruling class or clique is coupled the "protection of foreigners," who, it appears, have nothing to fear from the success of this party. This policy is in keeping with the placards issued by them and extensively circulated, as we hear, in the neighbourhood of Canton, and also with the letter which we published on the 11th instant over the signature "Pyramid." It seems as plain as possible that the rebellion is in its tendencies, the very reverse of that which has received the name of the "Boxer rising" in the north.

Such being the case, the position of England in the matter is difficult. The attempts of the southern officials to keep faith with us by the maintenance of order in the Liang Kwang merits our consideration, and if affairs get beyond their control intervention of some kind will be inevitable. But we have seen enough of the results of the mistaken policy carried out through the instrumentality of Gordon at the time of the Taiping revolt, to warn us of the folly, or rather the crime, of forcing the Chinese to continue against their will under the incompetent and barbarous Manchu yoke. The *North China Daily News* in its issue of the 17th instant makes a suggestion which deserves serious attention. "The Allies" says our contemporary, "should open negotiations with the 'leaders of the rebellion,' while it is in its inception and before it gets out of hand,

"for if its object is really to eject the Manchus and replace Kwang Hsu on the throne with a reforming Chinese Cabinet, 'we must all be in sympathy with it.' Some immediate step of this nature is urgently called for. It is a question whether the rebellion is not already getting beyond the power of the local Manchu and Chinese officials to cope with. No more unfortunate event could be imagined than that the rebels, or Reformers, as their leaders claim that they are, should have to be opposed by the armed strength of the Powers, among whom there is not one but knows that the cause for which the rebels profess to fight is one which must ultimately prevail—the abolition of the corrupt and decadent clique of Manchus who prevent all progress for China. If the Kwangtung insurgents can prove their sincerity and the purity of their motives, justice and civilisation itself must prevent us from putting them once more under the feet of their oppressors. Unfortunately the name of Triad has evil associations, particularly to us in Hongkong, and the Reformers must prove that they are opposed to many of the methods of this Society before they can appeal successfully to the sympathies of the world.

THE ANGLO-GERMAN AGREEMENT.

(Daily Press, 23rd October.)

The Anglo-German Agreement, which our London correspondent's telegram in yesterday's issue announced; and of which KAUTER's telegram published to-day gives fuller details, if read in its most natural sense is a most reassuring document and puts for the first time in black and white the principles which the two contracting parties are prepared to maintain. In both countries already public declarations have been repeatedly made which have set forth these principles, but the joint enunciation of them now gives an additional sense of security which is welcome to all who have experienced the vanity of trusting to official pledges unfortified by a sense of international obligation. Great Britain and Germany have bound themselves to "uphold the principle of keeping the ports of China free and open to the trade of all countries." This intention has been very distinctly and solemnly stated by both Governments separately. Both countries bind themselves "not to utilise the present complications to obtain any territorial advantage and to direct their policy towards maintaining the integrity of China." This too has been the declared policy of both Great Britain and Germany throughout. "Should any Power utilise the complications to obtain such territorial advantage, under any form whatever, the two Governments reserve the right to come to a preliminary understanding regarding the eventual steps to be taken for the protection of their own interests." This is the *crux* of the whole Agreement. Undoubtedly one country has already utilised the present complications to obtain for herself distinct territorial advantages. Russia has annexed the south bank of the Amur River with every appearance of official sanction. The St. Petersburg Government, for all its previous protestations of disinterestedness, has not repudiated this act of violent rapacity. If the Anglo-German Agreement is not to be entirely nugatory a circumstance has arisen calling for the preliminary understanding for the protection of British and German interests. The replies of the other Powers on the Agreement will be awaited with deep interest.

THE ELECTIONS.

(Daily Press, 20th October.)

Though the country has in an unmistakable manner endorsed the action of Lord SALISBURY's Government with regard to South Africa and the late republics—the Ministerialist majority by latest advices is 133—Lord SALISBURY individually can take little personal glory to himself from the result. In fact the feeling is growing that the Prime Minister was rather a hindrance than a help to the success of the Government measures, and that if colonial as foreign affairs had been left to his initiation the record would have been one of marked incapacity. And yet the nation at large is by no means disposed to fling a stone at his Foreign policy as a whole, while distinctly acknowledging that during the latter portion of his tenancy it has been coupled with a decided retrogression. In point of fact, while Lord SALISBURY has a knowledge of the external relations of the Empire almost unique, he mentally lacks the courage of his opinions, and is not sufficiently strong as a man to carry his views to their legitimate conclusion; nor is he of that type of men, who, possessed of the requisite knowledge, but knowing themselves deficient in firmness, are willing to leave to their lieutenants the execution of works, the original germ of which emanated from themselves. Like many another able man, he has while exacting obedience from his lieutenants not taken care to fit them as his successors; so that it is necessary to look outside his *entourage* for a man to whom can be entrusted the control of the foreign relations of an empire so complicated as that of Britain. Lord SALISBURY nominally made his appeal to the country on the single question of the settlement of the South African affair. Were the blunders made by his predecessors to be repeated, and were the late free states, under a half-effected conquest, to be permitted to remain a source of weakness to the Empire at large, on the one hand; or, on the other, were they to be in reality amalgamated and made to feel that their interests and those of the other dependencies of the Crown were really identical? Instinctively the country has declared for the latter view, and the policy, which in the hands of Mr. CHAMBERLAIN and Sir ALFRED MILNER has already been so well commenced, has been accepted by the nation at large. In this judgment the nation has given a distinct expression of its confidence, but there has been an unmistakeable undercurrent showing that the confidence was conditional only, and was by no means to be accepted as necessarily including the Prime Minister, or the conduct of the Foreign Office generally. In fact there are two of the Government departments which have notoriously broken down under the recent strain, and these are the two departments which, after the Colonial Office itself, are most immediately connected with the Empire at large, as distinct from that portion of it lying within the Four Seas. Neither the War nor the Foreign Offices have exhibited the power of adaptation required by the new conditions of the Empire. Of all countries China is that which most nearly approximates in its conditions to those coming under the ken of the Colonial Office, yet it is with regard to China that the Foreign Office, has shown the greatest ineptitude—so great in fact that Lord SALISBURY's mismanagement has become a national blot. So of the War Office; as far as the Office can make it the army system remains amongst those of the other nations very much as a mastodon or a dodo amongst the creations of the present age. It broke down utterly at the time of the

Crimean War, and was momentarily patched to make it look "as good as new," with what effect the story of the South African contest may show. The eventual success of that war was due to the practical supercession of the Office under the lead of a man sufficiently powerful to set War Office precedents at defiance. The new conditions, and the necessity in the near future of the Home Country and the Colonies being able in an emergency to work immediately together, point out that the defence of the Empire is something outside the ordinary capacity of English provincial electors to decide. At the same time the Horse Guards, the present representatives of the constitutional powers of the Crown, are even more than the War Office behind the requirements of the moment. In the decline of mere party cries which seem in the present election in the United Kingdom to have fallen into comparative insignificance, these are subjects which in the new Parliament will occupy men's minds, and will doubtless bring about a new parting. At all events there is a general consensus of opinion that they must be decided irrespective of what an evil generation has taught us to consider as politics, namely the strife of the "ins" and "outs," and that all parties and all sections have their right to be represented. For such a task the present Prime Minister is felt to be without the requisite mental calibre. Unfortunately our system gives us little opportunity in an emergency like the present of arriving at the best choice. With a few exceptions of men of special abilities devoted to special work, the men who remain available to form a ministry are not men of mark above the average, nor has one commanding figure emerged from the mob approaching the goal. Yet the circumstances of the Empire are such that such a figure is at the present time urgently needed. The policy of drift, which in ordinary times may be interchangeable with a masterly inactivity, is a dangerous one when an emergency looms on the horizon; and we certainly do not overrate the conditions of the moment when we say that an emergency which will need all the ability of the Empire to turn to account is actually within measurable distance. We require a Prime Minister and a Foreign Office in every sense Imperial—and this is just what our present constitutional methods do not provide for.

THE CRISIS: TELEGRAMS.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.]

SHANGHAI, 19th October, 9.39 p.m.

It is reported that Kang-yi has committed suicide. The story is, however, doubtful.

The Boxers who have been driven southward by the Allied troops in Chihli are making violent efforts to take refuge in Shantung.

Yuan Shikaj telegraphs to the Southern Viceroy that Prince Tuan, though he has been formally degraded, is still performing his former functions at Court.

It is expected that the Imperial Court will reach Hsianfu on the 26th instant.

SHANGHAI, 21st October, 5.8 p.m.

A Swatow despatch reports that Liu Yung-fu, the Black Flag general, was seriously defeated by a patriotic Triad army on Wednesday last at Huichow in Kwangtung. The patriots are now preparing to attack Canton.

The ringleader in the killing of the missionaries at Chuchow, in Chekiang, has been captured and brought to Hangchow.

The Szechuan contingent of troops which is proceeding to join the Imperial Court arrived at Siangyang on Thursday last.

There was a serious riot on the 8th inst. at Hsinchang in Kiangsi province. The yamen was partly destroyed. The disturbance, however, was entirely local.

SHANGHAI, 22nd October, 8.49 p.m.

The Anglo-German Agreement gives general satisfaction at Shanghai.

The new anti-foreign Taotai recently appointed to Shanghai has not yet received his commission. Possibly Liu Kung-yi delays sending him here in accordance with the prayers of the notables and gentry of Shanghai.

SHANGHAI, 23rd October, 7.40 p.m.

The French transport *Caravane* has sunk near Kobe after a collision with the *Yamaguchi Maru*. Three men are missing, the rest having been saved.

The Court remains at Tungkuan, the border town between Shansi and Shensi, waiting the course of events.

SHANGHAI, 24th October, 7.30 p.m.

Great alarm is manifested at Hankow at the recent appointment of Yu Chang as Governor of Hupeh. It is credibly reported that the Viceroy at Wuchang has telegraphed imploring the Consuls here to urge the foreign Ministers to make an effective protest. Otherwise it is certain that disasters will follow in the Yangtze Valley.

Admiral Seymour returned to-day from Taku.

There is a report that the Court is still proceeding to Hsianfu, but this is doubtful. Widespread sickness is said to prevail among the Court and its followers of all ranks.

SHANGHAI, 25th October, 8.37 p.m.

It is reported that Kwei Chun is going to take the position of Viceroy of the Liang Kwang, while Wang Chi-chun is going to Szechuan.

The friendly Viceroys have sent a memorial to the Throne recently, urging the punishment of the guilty advisers. They are much puzzled by the Empress-Dowager's reply, asking in brief: "What punishments do you propose?"

There is a Chinese report that Li Hung-chang has sent an identical message to all the foreign ministers except the British, saying: "The other powers are unfriendly to us. China relies on your kindness."

A joint expedition of the Allies is proceeding to the Ming Tombs to disperse the Boxers.

We have received a copy of the first number of the *American-China News*, which started its career in New York last month. The following remarks which introduce it will show its aims:—"The *American-China News* will represent the interests of American commerce, and American activity in general, in China, Japan, Philippine Islands and the Far East. When the present disturbances in China shall have come to an end, American commerce in the Far East will undoubtedly expand and develop in a manner never yet seen in history. To record the progress of this huge economic movement will be the privilege of the *American-China News*. Besides printing cable and mail reports from its own correspondents in the Far East, the *American-China News* will have the advantage of the extended news service of *Ostasiatische Lloyd* and the *Chinese Universal Gazette*, both published at Shanghai. Several well-known gentlemen, authorities in Far Eastern matters, have consented to discuss questions of the day in the columns of this journal." The first number contains an article from the prolific pen of the Hon. C. Denby.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

On Monday afternoon, 22nd inst., a meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held in the Council Chamber at the Government Offices, there being present:—

His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR (Sir HENRY BLAKE, G.C.M.G.)

His EXCELLENCY Major-General GASCOIGNE, C.M.G. (Commanding the troops).

Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. W. MEIGH GOODMAN, Q.C. (Attorney-General).

Hon. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. R. D. ORMSBY (Director of Public Works).

Hon. BASIL TAYLOR (Acting Harbour Master).

Hon. C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. J. J. KESWICK.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI.

Hon. J. THURBURN.

Hon. R. M. GRAY.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Mr. R. F. JOHNSTON (Acting Clerk of Councils).

THE SUGGESTED SCHOOL FOR YAU MATI.

In submitting the report of the Public Works Committee (No. 17) and moving its adoption, the COLONIAL SECRETARY said:—Your Excellency will observe from this report that the Finance Committee considered the Supply Bill of 1901 and that all the items were unanimously agreed to. There was only one point which the unofficial members wished to be recorded, and that was that the proposed new school at Yau mati which has been approved by the Public Works Committee should be undertaken without delay.

His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR—With reference to this question of a school for Yau mati I find that it came before me in some way, and really I cannot say why it has been left out. I can only say that I approve of the school, and I think we shall be able to see our way before a year is over to provide for it by a supplementary vote.

SMOKING IN NAVAL AND MILITARY PREMISES.

On the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to provide against smoking in certain naval and military premises was passed.

THE RESUMPTION OF CROWN LANDS.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL proposed the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to facilitate the resumption by the Governor of Crown Lands required for a certain purpose. The objects and reasons of the Bill are given as follow:—Ordinance No. 30 of 1899 was passed to amend The Crown Lands Resumption Ordinance, 1889. It, however, left the title of the principal Ordinance unaltered, although it dealt not merely with the resumption of Crown lands, but also with the acquisition by the Governor of land of any description, for public purposes. It appears unnecessary to mix the two subjects, and it is certainly desirable to consolidate in one Ordinance the law relating to the resumption of Crown lands. The present Ordinance incorporates, with some few slight alterations, the amendments introduced into the Crown Lands Resumption Ordinance by Ordinance No. 30 of 1899, so far as they relate to the resumption of Crown lands. It should be borne in mind that all land in the New Territories is declared by the New Territories Land Court Ordinance, 1900, to be the property of the Crown during the term specified in the Convention of 9th June, 1898. Thus the resumption of any part thereof from the occupiers, if necessary, would come within the terms of this Ordinance. Under the heading "resumption for public purpose" in section 2, a new clause is added, viz., clause (ii) relating to "obstructive buildings." This is based upon section 38 of the Imperial Act known as "The Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890." The whole of section 9 is also new and deals with certain points connected with the assessment of compensation; while its last paragraph makes special provision in cases where insanitary property is resumed. This section follows in the main the provisions of section 21 of the Imperial

Act previously mentioned. Section 18 makes it clear that the alternative mode of proceeding provided by this Ordinance does not annul any power of resumption contained in Crown Leases.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the motion was carried.

The Bill was then considered in committee and some slight alterations made. On the Council resuming, the third reading was accordingly held over.

THE APPROPRIATION BILL.

In proposing the third reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to apply a sum not exceeding three million three hundred and eighty thousand one hundred and thirty-four dollars and twenty-nine cents to the public service of the year 1901, the COLONIAL SECRETARY said—As I have already stated, the Bill has been considered by the Finance Committee, who unanimously agreed to all the items. The Bill, however, has not yet been considered in committee of this Council, and I now move that the Council go into committee to consider it.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded and the motion was carried.

The Bill was considered in committee, and no alterations being made, on the Council resuming it was read a third time and passed.

THE NEW TERRITORIES.

On the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the Bill entitled An Ordinance to extend the operation of such of the Laws of this Colony as are not at present in force in the New Territories to a certain portion of such New Territories, was read a third time and passed.

The Council then adjourned until Monday, November 5th.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

On Thursday afternoon a meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held. The President (the Hon. R. D. Ormsby, Director of Public Works) occupied the chair, and there were also present Dr. Bell (Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer), Major Brown, Mr. J. McKie, Dr. Hartigan, Mr. E. Osborne, Dr. F. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. Fung Wa Chuen, Mr. Chan A Fook, and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary).

THE INSPECTOR'S QUARTERS AT KENNEDYTOWN.

The first item on the agenda was "Proposed reply to Colonial Secretary's letter No. 1870, dated October 8th, 1900, concerning the Inspector's quarters at Kennedytown."

Papers dealing with the matter were submitted.

The PRESIDENT said he looked up the files of the *Hongkong Daily Press*, and there he found that the whole scheme in connection with the depots at Kennedytown, including the Inspector's house, was submitted to the Board by Mr. Cooper in 1892 or 1893. They were then submitted to the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon for his report; and at the next meeting of the Board he submitted his report and specially referred to this site as being very suitable, it being near to the Government Cattle Depot. In the face of that he thought they had better not go to the Government again, because the Government were aware of this. Unless the matter was pressed he would suggest that it should be allowed to drop.

Dr. HARTIGAN—I certainly object to letting the matter drop.

The PRESIDENT said that as to the house being unhealthy, he doubted it. He did not think a better site could be found in the neighbourhood of the Cattle Depot. If the present Inspector, who had certainly suffered from fever, as many other men in the colony did, could not live there, another man might be put there. Other Inspectors had lived there and had not suffered from fever. He did not think there was sufficient evidence for the Sanitary Board to condemn the house entirely. The idea now was that fever was entirely due to mosquitoes, and there was a specialist working in the colony with the view to discovering how these mosquitoes could be destroyed, and if this were done at Kennedytown perhaps it would render the house habitable.

On the motion of Dr. HARTIGAN, seconded by Dr. CLARK, it was decided to recommend

the Government to make a house allowance to the Inspector pending the carrying out of certain improvements contemplated in the district.

THE PROPOSED CREMATORIUM FOR DEAD CATTLE AT KENNEDYTOWN.

Papers were submitted relative to the proposed crematorium for dead cattle at Kennedytown.

THE PROPOSED REFUSE DESTRUCTOR.

Replying to a resolution of the Board re the proposed refuse destructor, the Colonial Secretary said:—

"On the recommendation of the Public Works Committee it was decided that enquiries should be addressed to the Straits Settlements, Shanghai and India as to the success or otherwise of the refuse destructors employed in those places. Replies were received from Singapore and from Shanghai, but the Indian Government stated in their letter of the 21st May last that the information asked for would take some time to collect, as it had to be furnished by various local Governments. It was again recommended by the Public Works Committee that further consideration of the scheme should be postponed until information was received from India; and the Government considered it advisable under the circumstances not to make provision for the establishment of a refuse destructor in the Estimates for 1901. This will not, however, prevent the Government from again considering the scheme when the desired information from India has arrived or from asking the Legislative Council to vote a special sum for the work next year if it is decided to proceed with it. Meanwhile the Government of India have been requested to obtain the information as soon as possible. I am to add that His Excellency regrets that this information was not conveyed to the Board before the Estimates were brought before the Legislative Council."

On the motion of Mr. OSBORNE, seconded by Mr. McKIE, it was decided to postpone the further consideration of the matter for three months.

THE BACK-YARDS QUESTION.

In reply to a resolution with reference to section 7 of the Insanitary Properties Ordinance, 1899, which deals with back-yards, the Colonial Secretary said:—

"The Governor regrets his inability to concede the request therein made. The section in question is most stringent in its terms, its provisions were arrived at after a great deal of discussion, and the ultimate decision as to whether any exemption should be made in special cases was placed in the hands of the Governor-in-Council. There are not likely to be a great number of special cases, and His Excellency does not consider it advisable that the Ordinance should be changed. Without such change His Excellency does not see that he has power to hand over the duty of the Governor-in-Council to the Sanitary Board, the recommendations of which body are always most carefully considered."

THE MARKET ACCOMMODATION AT KOWLOON.

In reply to the resolution of the Board as to the Market accommodation at Kowloon, the Colonial Secretary wrote:—

"The Government is prepared to take steps for the preparation of a scheme for providing a Market for Kowloon and has formed a committee, composed of the Honourable the Director of Public Works (chairman), the Medical Officer of Health, and the Honourable C. P. Chater, C.M.G., and Wei A Yuk, with that end in view."

Dr. Hartigan moved:—"Satisfactory. Will the plans be submitted to Board for suggestion?"

SUGGESTED ALTERATION TO DRAINAGE BYE-LAWS.

The following letter from Mr. J. J. Bryan, Sanitary Surveyor, was read:—

"I have the honour to request that you will place the following facts before the Board, with a view to securing a slight amendment in the wording of the present drainage bye-laws. Section 13 of Ordinance 24 of 1887 gives power to the Board to make, alter, amend, or revoke bye-laws with regard to:—

"The proper construction, trapping, ventilating, and maintenance of private house drains. Drainage bye-laws Nos. 1, 4, 10, 19, 24, 33, 43, 44, and 45 speak of new drains, and imply that

only notices for new drainage works must be sent in; that excavations made for old drains need not be lighted at night; that an inlet may be inside a house provided that it is connected with an old drain; that a bell or D trap may be fixed to an old drain; that an old drain may be covered up, without inspection, etc., etc."

"Frequently repairs to old drains are carried out without any notice being sent to this office, and in a few cases the 'repairs' have been found to admit of the escape of sewer gas into the house. It has been argued at the Magistracy that bye-law 34 refers only to new drains, as in the preceding bye-laws only new drains are mentioned."

"It has also been ruled by a Metropolitan Magistrate that if any existing drain is altered, repaired, or even taken up, and new pipes substituted, that the drain is an old and not a new one."

"I suggest, therefore, for these reasons, that the word 'new' be erased from the above enumerated drainage bye-laws."

The following minutes were appended:—

Mr. McKie:—"The bye-laws should apply to any drain."

Mr. Fung Wa Chuen:—"I think the bye-laws should be allowed to stand as they are."

The Hon. R. D. Ormsby:—"I think that the bye-laws should refer to old and new drains. Supervision of repairs to old drains is most important."

On the motion of Dr. CLARK, seconded by Dr. BELL, it was decided to apply to Government for power to amend the bye-laws in the particulars indicated.

THE SURVEYOR'S QUARTERLY REPORT.

In his report for the third quarter of the present year Mr. J. J. Bryan, Sanitary Surveyor, said plans had been deposited during the quarter for the drainage of 111 houses; plans for 345 houses were carried forward from 1899 and 348 from the previous quarter, making a total of 804 in hand during the quarter. The drainage of 62 houses had been completed, leaving 742 to carry forward. Re-drainage or repairs to drains had been carried out in 43 instances and 362 houses were carried forward. This made a total of 405 houses in hand for re-drainage or repairs during the quarter. Certificates had been granted under section 74 of Ordinance 24 of 1887 to 105 new buildings and one addition that they had been built in accordance with the provisions of that Ordinance. The drains of 57 houses had been inspected and reported on. Of this number three required reconstructing, 17 amending, and 37 were found to be in order. Notices had been served on the owners of 20 houses calling upon them to execute the necessary work. In addition to the above 3,318 houses had been inspected, with the result 786 minor drainage nuisances had been discovered. Notices had been served in each case on the owner or occupier to abate the nuisance. 182 nuisances had been reported to the Medical Officer of Health and 26 to the Honourable the Director of Public Works to be dealt with by them."

THE MALARIAL INFECTION OF EUROPEANS.

Further reports furnished to the Malarial Committee of the Royal Society by Drs. Christophers and Dr. Stephens were submitted.

Dr. Clark submitted the following abstract of the reports:—

"I. The anopheles larvae breed in small sheltered pools, especially those containing organic matter in suspension. These pools may be either natural or artificial, the latter being most commonly rain-water tanks. The larvae may even be found in deep wells when the surface of the water is some 20 or 30 feet down."

"II. Anopheles can fly a distance of a quarter of a mile or more."

"III. At the end of a dry season living *ora* do not exist in the earth of the dried-up pools."

"IV. Anopheles usually exist in the neighbourhood of native dwellings throughout the whole of the dry season, even when it may extend to several months, and from five to ten per cent. of such anopheles will be found to be infected with the malarial organism."

"V. In tropical countries Europeans are mostly infected with malaria from the natives and not from other Europeans, so that the first means of protection for Europeans consists in

avoiding the native quarters with their infected population and infested anopheles.

"VI. European dwellings should, therefore, be distant not less than 400 to 500 yards from the nearest native dwellings, other than those servants' quarters which are a necessary adjunct to the dwelling, and which come under the personal supervision of the European occupants of the dwelling."

The following minutes were appended:—

Dr. Hartigan:—The moral to be drawn from this pamphlet is the absolute necessity of a European reservation area."

Dr. Clark:—"I thoroughly agree with Dr. Hartigan. The longer the question of a European reservation is delayed the more difficult will it be to obtain."

Dr. Bell:—"Where do the natives get fever from?"

A preliminary report which the Trustees of the British Museum have had prepared by Mr. F. V. Theobald on the collections of mosquitoes received at the Museum from various parts of the world in connection with the Government investigation into the causes of malaria was also submitted.

The following minutes were appended:—

Dr. Hartigan:—"No anopheles sent from Hongkong? I understand they swarm in several districts to the East, West and Peak."

Dr. Clark:—"Yes! they were subsequently found by Mr. Ladds in most of the malarious districts of the colony."

Mr. OSBORNE said the connection between mosquitoes and malaria was a most important matter to this colony and one they were likely to overlook. He should be glad if the Medical Officer of Health could tell them what was being done locally by the Government in connection with the matter. He knew some steps were being taken by the military authorities, who were cutting away the undergrowth below the Sanatorium at Magazine Gap. But as this was a matter which concerned the health of the colony he thought they should know what was being done to follow the matter up with a view to coming to some conclusion.

Dr. CLARK said that all he could say was that he knew unofficially that Dr. Thomson was collecting mosquitoes from various parts of the colony. The military authorities were taking steps to do away with the breeding ground for mosquitoes in the neighbourhood of the Sanatorium at Magazine Gap. He thought that if the Board took any action at all in the matter the best thing they could do would be to start at Kennedytown on the same lines.

Mr. OSBORNE expressed himself in favour of this being done, and suggested that the Medical Officer be asked to prepare a small scheme for taking the matter in hand.

This was agreed to.

THE BOARD AND CERTAIN PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

Dr. HARTIGAN, pursuant to notice, moved:—

(1.) The Board having noticed that it is the intention of the Government to construct a new market for the Western district, and that the Government have approved of the erection of a "Plague Hospital" in the same district, the Board request that the plans, &c., of such new buildings be submitted to them for suggestions. (2.) That in future the plans of all buildings which when completed are under the Board's management, such as markets, &c., or such as have a direct connection with the health of the Colony, such as infectious hospitals, public conveniences, &c., may be submitted to the Board by the Government." He said: This motion practically explains itself. The request conveyed in it is not unreasonable; in fact the wonder is that such an appeal should be necessary. If we are a Sanitary Board in anything more than name it is our duty and privilege to deal with all things connected with the Sanitary conditions of this colony. To define wherein our province lies, to indicate what does or does not come within its jurisdiction, what are and what are not sanitary matters, presents no real difficulty; and in all such cases I, and not only myself but every man who takes any interest in sanitation in the colony, maintain that this Board should be consulted, and its decisions, unless for good cause shown, should not be over-ruled. We do not meet here to register the pious opinions of any heads of departments however pre-eminent in their special spheres; nor do we wish our carefully

thought-out plans for the improvement of the colony to be quashed by a caustic minute written in the privacy of the official sanctum, where it can neither be explained nor contradicted, as has occurred in the past. We are quite willing to listen to every argument brought forward, and where such are used by those having special knowledge of the subject-matter in hand, they naturally carry great weight with the Board which usually is guided by the opinion given. This Board is undoubtedly looked upon by many of the officials as a necessary nuisance—necessary because the democratic Secretary of State did not wish to run contra to the expressed opinions of the ratepayers of this colony when, by nearly 400 votes to 8, they decided that the Sanitary Board should exist, but all the same they consider it a nuisance, which shall be a Board only in name, shall not have power to dismiss its most worthless coolie or turn on the most necessary water-tap, a Board to be played with or snubbed as the humour takes them, and occasionally, very occasionally, to be thrown a sop when such a gift neither hurts their own *amour propre* nor is likely to be of any use. I do not reiterate these facts for the sake of controversy or to rake up old sores, but simply that we and the public of Hongkong may have a plain simple issue before us. Will we make this Board a reality or leave it the impotent body with little form and no substance that it is at present? My own opinion is that this Board might be most useful. Two heads are certainly better than one for deliberation, though one is best for executive work. The Government are here represented by their specially qualified advisers, both civil and military. The unofficials have only the good of the colony at heart and devote their time and brains for its benefit. Why then is the Board a failure? Because the official element is not with us. Because each head wishes to be supreme, conscious of its own innate infallibility in all matters of sanitation included. But are they infallible? I can point out to-day expensive red brick and cement drains which have never been used; others which were cut through almost as soon as completed because a new system was introduced. Another King of Brent had arrived. Buildings unhealthy from their first day of occupation; so-called improvements made which were no improvements at all, and others neglected which time after time have been advocated by the Board, such as the training of nullahs and drainage of unhealthy areas (the usefulness of which the military had proved by their successful training of the fever-breeding Victoria Barracks ravine). The Board's recommendations were pool-pooled, its advice persistently ignored, until it remained for a progressive Governor who reads the medical papers to act on his own initiative to inaugurate these mad (?) schemes; the colony meanwhile losing the services of its police and other servants through disease, and money being thus recklessly wasted which might have been saved by the asking of a little advice; so on in many other things. Friction can be avoided if the heads of departments when dealing with sanitary matters will record their opinions before and not after the Board has deliberated, or where they are members of the Board they can support their views here in public and not in cloistered seclusion, and thus they must act if my motion is successful. The complaint of the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon against the proximity of a plague hospital to the cattle Depot Slaughterhouse, of which the Board have no official knowledge whatever, emphasises my point. I believe we have got the sympathy and goodwill and can earn the respect of those high in authority, but to do real good useful work we must all pull together both in spirit and action, but this is impossible whilst the unpleasantness to which I have referred continues. I want to appeal from the individual official to the Government as a whole. We have only to concern ourselves with minor municipal matters, which those playing at being great officers of the Crown sometimes think beneath their notice, or neglect. We do not try to usurp in any way the functions of the Government, with whom the final decision, whether right or wrong, must lie, but we do object to lie under the thumb of any single person who may happen to hold an opposite opinion or divergent views from those emanating from and approved

by a majority of this Board. We simply ask for a definite *locus standi* no greater nor less than that of the Sanitary Board of any country town in the United Kingdom.

Mr. OSBORNE, in seconding, said there was undoubtedly a feeling on his part, and he thought on the part of every unofficial member there, that that Board, as Dr. Hartigan had said, were merely a sop to the democratic tendencies of this colony. It had been ruled over and over again by those in authority at home that a municipal government in Hongkong was impracticable. However they might differ on that point the fact remained that that was the decision of the Government at home, and that decision as law-abiding subjects they accepted; but the Sanitary Board was created with a view to obtaining from persons long resident in the colony their opinions on sanitary matters, which were closely allied to municipal matters, and to obtain the opinions of men who knew the wants of the colony and who were in a position to advise the Government as to the best measures to be adopted for the health of the colony. Such being the case, it seemed marvellous that there should be so much ill-feeling, so much jealousy of the Board. There was not a member there who gained anything by being a member of the Board. There was a certain amount of work to be done and time to be spent, and they did that work and spent that time, he took it, because they felt that the residents of the colony should in some measure have their wishes and wants known. Therefore, he thought the Government should always give the fullest consideration to the recommendations of the Board, and that one and only one excuse should be given for refusing to carry out the recommendations—and that was on the score of expense. Dr. Hartigan had said that it should not be possible for one man to veto the recommendations and decisions of that Board. It should not be possible. They were practically the only municipal body in the colony, and they were the only body which had anything in the nature of a continuity of policy. Officials came and went. There were continued changes in every department of the colony, and what one man did to-day his successor undid to-morrow.

Dr. BELL said that with regard to the Plague Hospital the plans had been submitted to three P.M.C.O.'s. Whether it was right for the Sanitary Board to have the plans laid before them he could not say. Personally he was not in favour of plans for hospitals being laid before the Board. There would not be very many hospitals erected in the colony. The only object in bringing plans of hospitals before the Board was to get information, and he did not see how they could expect the Board to give any information about a hospital. Except the medical members of the Board, the Board knew nothing about the management of a hospital. As to the Inspector's quarters at Kennedytown, that was a sorry example of the inadvisability of submitting such plans to the Sanitary Board. The Sanitary Board in 1893 passed the plans for the Inspector's quarters at Kennedytown and chose the site, and yet in 1900 the Board said that the site was a bad one.

Dr. HARTIGAN contended that the question of the site for an infectious hospital was decidedly a question for the Sanitary Board. If an Infectious Hospital was placed in a thickly populated district it was a case for the Board. As to the site of this house at Kennedytown the only person to approve of it was Mr. Ladds.

The PRESIDENT—The Board adopted his report.

Dr. HARTIGAN—If the Sanitary Board did not do their duty at that time and did not examine the site, that is no reason why we should continue on the same lines.

The PRESIDENT said he thoroughly agreed with all that had been said by the P. C. M. O. What was said before he spoke would lead many people to imagine that buildings were designed and carried through on the recommendation of one man, thereby, he supposed, referring to the official holding the position of Director of Public Works. With regard to the Western Market, he did not suppose any question had taken up more time and consideration. The site for the market and the design for the market had been under the consideration of the Government, he believed, for ten

years. Certainly since he had been in the colony it had been very much before the Government. A sub-committee was appointed by His Excellency some time ago to consider the question. It was composed of the Hon. C. P. Chater, the Hon. Wei A Yuk, the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, the Hon. F. H. May, and he thought the M.O.H. He must say that he did not think the Government could have appointed a more representative committee. Supposing the site had been referred to the Sanitary Board and the Sanitary Board had disagreed with the committee. In that case the Government would have had to go to somebody else to decide which was right. The question as to the design for the market was put in his hands. He immediately consulted the Medical Officer of Health and the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon. A sketch plan was made. He met the Medical Officer of Health and the architect, and they went through it with the utmost care. He did not know how the Government could have done better. Still the design had to come before the Public Works Committee of the Legislative Council. In conclusion the President expressed his intention not to vote either for or against the motion.

After a few words of reply from Dr. HARTIGAN, the motion was put and carried. Dr. Bell was the only member who voted against, whilst the President and Mr. Fung Wa Chuen abstained from voting.

PROPOSED INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL FOR CHINESE.

The following letter from the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon (Mr. C. V. Ladds) was submitted:—

"I have the honour to request that you will bring the following matter before the Sanitary Board at your earliest convenience.

"I have heard that there is some intention of building an infectious diseases hospital for Chinese upon Inland Lot 1082, which is situated at Kennedytown, and I beg to point out that this lot is only a stone's throw from the City slaughterhouse.

"I believe it is the rule in the United Kingdom that no buildings should be erected within a quarter of a mile of any infectious diseases hospital, and if such regulations are deemed necessary there, I presume the same conditions would apply, and perhaps with more reason, in a tropical climate like Hongkong.

"As a bacteriologist, I therefore deem it my duty to point out to the Board that it is generally understood that all fresh meat is liable to absorb germs freely, especially so when newly slaughtered, and as Inland Lot 1082 is only 65 yards distant from the slaughtering shed itself, it appears to me that the close proximity of such an hospital might prove a source of much danger to the principal meat supply of the colony."

The following minutes were appended:—

Mr. McKie:—"The Board do not even know where this hospital is to be situated. It is a pity the Board was not consulted at first."

Dr. Clark:—"Smallpox is the only infectious disease that is known to spread through the atmosphere for a distance of 300 to 400 yards, and cases of that disease should most certainly not be treated in any building so close to the slaughterhouse as this will apparently be."

Dr. Bell:—"I do not think there is anything in this objection. Smallpox has hitherto been treated at Kennedytown Hospital without any objection to the difference in distance in 50 yards or so. I never heard of smallpox being spread by meat, nor any one else."

The Hon. R. D. Ormsby:—"Hearsay evidence in Hongkong should never be acted on. There is, as far as I know, no intention of building an infectious diseases hospital on Inland Lot 1082."

It was pointed out that the hospital was not to be erected on the lot mentioned, but on one a short distance away. The letter was ordered to lie on the table.

THE WATERING OF THE STREETS.

The following minute by the Medical Officer of Health relative to street watering was submitted, it being in reply to the queries by His Excellency the Governor, What is the cost of street watering? Could it be done more cheaply by water carts?—

In reply to His Excellency's minutes I have the honour to state that enquiries have been made as to the cost of street watering by

carts, and it appears that at Shanghai, where carts are used, the expenditure on street watering amounts to about \$17,000 per annum, exclusive of what is paid for the water.

"The expenditure in this colony is only \$2,400, and the area of the City of Victoria is about three times that of the settlement of Shanghai.

"On the other hand the rainfall of Shanghai is rather more than half of the rainfall of this colony, so that they would probably have to water the streets on twice as many days as we do.

"Even then the discrepancy is very large, and we may say that street watering by carts would cost nearly six times as much as street watering by hand buckets.

"Street watering by carts could only be applied to Queen's Road, Des Vœux Road, and the cross streets between these, as a heavily-laden water cart on the upper levels would be distinctly dangerous if left in charge of Chinese drivers.

"The cost of the carts is about \$230 to \$250 apiece, and they necessitate pony traction, which costs in Shanghai only 67 cents a day per pony; but I doubt if it could be got in this colony at that rate."

The following minutes were appended:—

Mr. McKie:—"It is absolutely impossible to compare the cost of street watering in Shanghai with the old woman bucket system prevailing here, and it is also misleading to make the comparison, on the statement that the area of the city of Victoria is three times that of the Shanghai settlement. As a matter of fact, the area of roads as properly watered by carts in Shanghai is more than five times that upon which we sprinkle a little water here."

Mr. Osborne:—"It is not fair to compare the cost of street watering in Shanghai and Hongkong unless the amount of water used in each place be stated. In Shanghai I understand the watering is done efficiently. In Hongkong it is little more than a farce."

Dr. Clark:—"The object of the comparison with Shanghai is to ascertain what it would cost to do the street watering thoroughly."

Dr. Hartigan:—"I agree with Mr. McKie re area watered in Shanghai. Why could not the carts be drawn by coolies? The upper roads are hardly ever watered. The dust this year has been abominable. The amount spent on watering might certainly be larger."

The Hon. R. D. Ormsby:—"No watering should be done here except with sea water or the unfiltered water from streams which have been made available for the purpose on Caine Road and Bonham Road. I am in favour of spending what money we have on a proper water cart and hand pump for filling them from the sea. The present system should be abandoned."

After some discussion it was decided, on the motion of the PRESIDENT, seconded by Dr. BELL, that application be made to the Government to provide four water-carts, the present system of watering with fresh water to be stopped in the meanwhile.

THE ANALYST'S QUARTERLY REPORT.

In this report for the quarter ended September 30th, Mr. T. J. Wild, Acting Government Analyst said he had examined one sample of brandy, one of gin, one of rum and six whisky, all of which were found to be genuine and two adulterated.

The following minutes were appended:—

Mr. McKie:—"Have the sellers of the two lots of adulterated milk been prosecuted?"

Dr. Clark:—"One was convicted and fined \$100, and the other absconded from the colony."

PENANG AND THE PLAGUE.

The following telegram, dated 12th October, has been received from the Colonial Secretary, Singapore:—

"Two suspected cases of plague both fatal 10th October reported from Penang 11th October. Contacts segregated; every precaution taken; no other cases since."

THE FORTNIGHTLY LIME-WASHING RETURN.

The fortnightly lime-washing return showed that since the previous report 270 houses in the Central District had been limewashed.

THE HEALTH OF THE COLONY.

The death-rate for the colony for the week ended 6th October was 25.6, against 21.6 for the previous week and 19.1 for the corresponding

week last year. The rate for the succeeding week was 20.4, against 20.1 for the corresponding week last year.

MACAO MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The deaths in Macao during the week ended 7th October numbered 57 and for the succeeding week 44.

This was all the business.

SUPREME COURT.

October 24th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE HON. T. SERCOMBE SMITH
(ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

LEMM V. CHAN YUK CHUN.

In this case the plaintiff, Mr. John Lemm, architect, sought to recover from Chan Yuk Chun, of 48, Bonham Strand, \$875 for professional services rendered in preparation of plans and specifications and procuring tenders for the election of buildings on part of the Praya Reclamation belonging to the defendant, or to which the defendant is entitled by a Crown Lease.

Mr. d'Almada e Castro (Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) said he appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. Ewens for the defendant. He said this case had been settled by payment of a smaller sum than the amount claimed—\$550. He therefore, would ask his lordship for leave to withdraw the case.

His Lordship—Very well.

The case was accordingly withdrawn.

THE CRISIS IN CHINA.

LOCAL MOVEMENTS.

The U.S. gunboat *Don Juan de Austria* arrived on the 19th inst. from Canton.

H.M.S. *Mohawk* left on the 19th inst. for Shanghai.

The Austrian transport *Elektra*, which is engaged by the Russian government, departed on the 19th inst. on its way to Vladivostok.

H. M. S. *Astræa* arrived on the 21st inst. from Singapore with the torpedo-boat destroyer *Janus*. The *Astræa* is a second-class cruiser of 4,360 tons displacement and 9,112 i.h.p. She was built at Devonport in 1893 at a cost of £244,831. Her armour is 2 in., gun-position, and 2.1 in., deck. She carries two 6 in. Q.F., eight 4.7 in., eight 6 prs., one 3 prs., 4 maxims, and one light gun, with two torpedo-tubes. Her speed is 19.75 knots, and her complement 312. She is, it may be noted, the smallest ship in the Navy carrying midshipmen, of whom she has eight. The destroyer *Janus* is of 252 tons displacement and 3,789 i.h.p. She steams 27.8 knots and her armament consists of one 12-pdr. and five 6-pdr. quick-firing guns and she has two torpedo tubes. Her crew numbers 50. It looked as if the *Astræa* very narrowly escaped running into H.M.S. *Argonaut* on the 21st inst., as she moved to her position. It is not improbable that the *Astræa* may be docked here.

The British transport *Dalhousie* left on the 20th for Taku.

The British steamer *Sicilian* arrived in the harbour on the 22nd inst., bringing 25 Russian officers and 2,656 men, and left again on Tuesday for Vladivostok.

The *Saint Andrew* returned from Weihaiwei on the 22nd inst.

The British transport *Nerbudda* arrived on the 25th inst. from Shanhaikwan.

The British transport *Nevasa* arrived on the 25th inst. from Taku and Weihaiwei.

The French cruiser *Chasseloup Laubat* arrived yesterday from Marseilles via Singapore and Saigon. She is a second class cruiser of 3,758 tons and 9,000 i.p.p., built at Cherbourg in 1893. She has deck-armour 3 in. thick, and is armed with six 6.4-in. Q.F., four 3.9-in., eight 1.8-in., twelve 1.4-in. maxims, and six torpedo-tubes. Her speed is 19.25 knots.

AFFAIRS IN THE NEW TERRITORY.

Captain Superintendent F. H. May, C.M.G., returned on the 21st inst. to Hongkong from the New Territory. It appears that the general situation on the British boundary and the remoter parts of the New Territory was then reassuring.

Captain May went back on Monday, but this need not be taken as indicating that any danger is apprehended, for he returned once more on Thursday night.

THE R. W. F. COMING BACK.

We announced some days ago that the Royal Welsh Fusiliers were to return here shortly and would not winter in the north. News arrives from Peking that the R. W. F. were hoping to leave Peking about the 20th inst. for Tientsin, en route to Hongkong.

THE TROUBLE IN KWANGTUNG.

DESPERATE BATTLE BETWEEN REBELS AND VILLAGERS.

400 REBELS AND 2,000 VILLAGERS KILLED.

On the 15th inst. the rebels attacked a body of Imperial troops at Sam-kok-fu, some four miles from Tak Mui Fu, and defeated them, killing about 100 and wounding many others. The villagers of Sam-kok-fu assisted the Imperial troops, and the rebels avenged themselves by killing about 20 of them and burning several houses.

Admiral Ho and his men commenced their advance from Samchun on the 17th, only a small detachment being left behind.

The rebels in Kwangtung appear, however, to be making headway and are doing an immense amount of mischief to the peacefully disposed villagers.

The latest accounts say that on the 19th, 20th and 21st instant some 4,000 villagers belonging to Sam To Chuk and the vicinity attacked the rebels between Sam To Chuk and Yung Fa. The battle was most stubbornly fought, but ultimately the rebels gained the day. They are reported to have lost 400 men, whilst some 2,000 villagers were killed, women and children being slaughtered, and houses burned down. On the evening of the 21st two thousand Chinese troops went to the assistance of the villagers. They came in contact with the rebels on the 22nd, and a fight ensued, the result of which is not yet known.

The villages destroyed were occupied by two clans who have been particularly friendly to the troops, and both clans have been practically annihilated, their villages—about 51 in number—being utterly destroyed.

The rebels are reported to be about 3,000 strong at Yung Fa, a place in the Kwaising district of the Kwangtung province. The rebels appear to be still going northwards in the direction of Swatow, and it is probable that they will soon make their presence felt there.

Admiral Ho, after having burned several villages which were favourable to the rebels, has returned to Wong Kong. He left 600 men at Pingshan. He shows a disinclination to advance further on the ground that the rebels are going beyond his immediate jurisdiction.

Wuchow is said to be quite safe, all the rebels having apparently cleared away from the vicinity.

Those Chinese soldiers captured by the rebels who escape beheading had their queues cut off and they are made to carry the rebel banners in the fore-front of the fight.

We believe it is a fact that among those who hold commands in the rebel army are two brothers. One of these brothers was in May last indicted at the Supreme Court with being a member of the Triad Society. He was, however, acquitted, chiefly because of the evidence given in his favour by a missionary, who said the man was a Christian and bore an excellent character.

The British troops encamped within sight of Samchun are enjoying good health, only one man having had to be sent to Hongkong through sickness.

GREAT DEFEAT OF BOXERS IN SHANTUNG.

The following detailed account of a battle which occurred on the 8th inst., at Tsangchou, Shantung-Chihli borders, ending in the utter defeat of the Boxers, is from the *N.-C. Daily News*. General Mei, commanding Governor Yuan Shikai's troops at Tsangchou, and engaged in keeping the Northern Boxers from entering Shantung, has had no fewer than fourteen battles (including skirmishes) with the enemy since the beginning of September, during which the troops suffered defeat only twice,

that is, in a couple of skirmishes, during which the Boxers outnumbered the troops five to one. All these fights occurred in the vicinity of Tsangchou, which is still held in force by Governor Yuan's troops, who have hitherto succeeded very well in preventing the entrance of all Boxers who have tried to fight a way into the province of Shantung. On the 9th instant, however, the Chief Boxer leader, a Tientsin man named Ch'en, whose followers have the reputation of being the most ferocious and pitiless of their kind, concentrated his forces, numbering 5,000 men, and joining them to the Shantung Boxers on the early morning of that day marched against General Mei's troops and offered battle in the plains below the city of Tsangchou. The Boxers combined numbered over 12,000, while General Mei's forces only numbered 8,000 of all arms. But the challenge was accepted and General Mei, after leaving a little over 2,000 men to hold the city and placing 1,500 men with artillery on the rising ground outside the city wall to cover his retreat should he be outnumbered by the enemy, marched out with nearly 4,000 to attack the enemy. The battle raged from 8 o'clock in morning to dusk, just before which, seeing that the right wing of the Boxers, who were strongly posted in the villages and dykes and forced the troops to attack them in the open, were suffering severely from a battery posted near by and had begun to waver, General Mei sent his 1,500 covering troops to attack them on the flank. The Boxers did not wait for these fresh troops, but were soon seen streaming to the north-west of the town into the marshes. This was the signal for a general advance and pursuit by the troops. The covering troops then made a detour and stopped the Boxers from getting into the marshes, while the pursuing troops coming up the enemy were cut down almost to a man. This right wing happened to be entirely composed of Tientsin Boxers under Ch'en, who was fortunately captured. This man, with some 300 desperadoes, refused to retreat when he saw the battle was lost, but held his ground in a strongly entrenched and walled hamlet. Here General Mei with 200 cavalry, found him and a desperate fight ensued. The troopers dismounted and stormed the place and a couple of Maxims being brought up, the whole band were slain without a single cry for quarter. Ch'en's head was then brought back to Tsangchou in triumph and it now adorns the walls of that city. Nearly 6,000 Boxers were killed in this battle, over 3,000 of whom were Tientsin men. General Mei was wounded, his losses being some 300 killed and twice the number wounded. The Shantung Boxers belonging to those who went to Peking in May last had been defeated and were now trying to get back to their homes, to find the door shut against them by Governor Yuan: hence their persistency in attacking Tsangchou.

OCCASIONAL NOTES.

Hongkong, though it possesses no bund, so-called, seemed during the last week or so determined not to allow Shanghai the monopoly in "bundlers," and the result of its efforts has been a fine crop of unfounded rumours—*canards* is the word dear to journalists, is it not? The Rebellion in the South has attained the dignity of very large type, and doubtless at home our friends and relatives have been expecting, from day to day, to hear of our throats being cut. This we shall discover in some three or four week's time, when the mail papers duly come to hand. Meanwhile we have been comfortably reading in the papers of all sorts of fine things. One of Her Majesty's ships so far forgot itself as to be in two places at once, like Sir Boyle Roche's talented bird, I have even heard that at Macao a certain gentleman did not, as he was accused of doing, offer his services in case of danger—but that's another story. Of course, if the allied forces in the north under Count von Waldersee will insist on "lying low" so long, it gets a bit dull down here, and we must find something else to talk about.

With the approach of the new racing season, under different conditions from those under which past seasons have been conducted, there is a considerable impetus given to the discussion of the China pony v. race-horse question, and

at length we are likely to see the China and Australian products fairly put side by side. There is little doubt that this will serve to make the season 1900-1901 the most interesting we have had yet. To those whose acquaintance with horse-racing is limited to attendance at occasional small meetings and participation in usually unlucrative Derby "sweeps," it may seem at first sight odd that racing here stands where it does, when within less than three weeks' steam of Hongkong is Australia, where some of the most capable horse-breakers in the world, finding the country and climate admirably suited to their purposes, have devoted their fortunes to horse-raising. Naturally they feel they have a grievance in the protection of the China pony which has prevailed up here so far. And is there not some truth in their claim that, if our Jockey Club had a meeting open to all horses and joined the Racing Associations of the East and Australia, Singapore and Indian horses would be sent to compete, giving Hongkong some sport more worthy of the size of the place?

Of course, there is the stumbling-block in the physical geography of this island, which limits riding and driving lamentably. But need it have the same effect on racing? The present course is too small, it will be objected. One can only reply that one knows of a course not an inch larger where excellent racing is carried on every week and without an accident which could be attributed in any way to the smallness of the course. With some alterations the course at Happy Valley could be made safe to race round as any course can be, provided the fields were not very big. With regard to the question of expense, it is the fashion rather to talk of racing as the sport of millionaires, but though it is not perhaps a hobby which a prudent guardian who encourage in a young hopeful, its cost here in Hongkong can be greatly exaggerated by the affrighted imagination of the careful business man. Anyway the fact remains that in places not nearly as prosperous as Hongkong racing is in a flourishing condition. But I must trespass no longer on subjects proper to that august body, the Hongkong Jockey Club. To discuss the question adequately, moreover, would occupy more space than I am allowed here to fill.

I suppose that the mosquito season is closing if it has not already closed—one of our many local exports could tell us this—and that the *culex* is suspending his operations for 1900. But I have been struck repeatedly by the forethought of some people in providing for this pest so fine a lake as exists in Des Voeux Road on the ground opposite the block in which the Hongkong Hotel lies (and also, Mr. Editor, your own office). It is very late in the day to draw attention to this fine breeding-ground now, but my eyes were attracted by the green waters last time I passed it. As an addition to the Praya landscape this lake, situated near the mountain range which has been constructed by industrious coolies and their wives or mothers this summer, is no doubt desirable; but as a school for young mosquitoes I venture to think it out of place, and so do those who sleep in its vicinity.

There have been a lot of complaints lately of an ingenious habit among chair and ricksha coolies and others of returning to their life fares ten-cent pieces, when they have just been paid, with the aggrieved exclamation, "Massa, copper!" Massa examining the coin sees it is undoubtedly counterfeit, and if he has not been caught before gives a good coin instead. He wonders however the imitation ten cent piece got into his pocket. The explanation is simple. The bad coin was in the coolie's possession before, and he has effected a change before he handed it to his victim as being the one just given to him. Of course, this trick can be checked by examining the coin before paying the coolie, who takes care, however, not to give himself away in such a case.

I am not a Triad or a Mason, but I believe that in France and Italy Masons suffer much from misrepresentation by the clerical party. I hope I shall not be much censured for suggesting that the Triads are not necessarily all

ruffians. Secret societies run the risk of being misunderstood. It is with considerable trepidation that I venture to write the names of the two bodies in the same paragraph, after a recent rebuke which we have read.

OBSERVER.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEERS IN CAMP.

BY OUR REPRESENTATIVE.

Sunday Night.

The Hongkong Volunteers went into camp at Kowloon on the evening of the 19th inst. at 5.15.

In consequence of the occupation of Stonecutter's Island by a detachment of Indian troops, the Hongkong Volunteer Corps had to look round for a fresh site for their annual camp of instruction, which commenced on Friday evening, 19th inst., and some elevated ground off Austin Road, Kowloon, near the Police Range, was fixed upon. There is ample room for the tents, which are a great improvement on those of previous years, being of the Indian pattern with a double covering. Accommodation has been provided for 350 men, and so far the attendance has been satisfactory. The sergeants have a couple of tents allotted to them for meals, and the men eight, a canteen with open front being close at hand.

The entertainments promise to be much better than heretofore. A committee, composed of Lieut. Armstrong, Sergeant King and Bombardier King, have arranged for three or four concerts and football matches and tugs of war. The concerts will be held on a piece of sloping ground close to the camp, on which a stage has been erected.

The programme of drills is pretty much as usual—one before breakfast, one after, and a third in the afternoon.

After the Saturday morning's drill the Commandant (Lieut. Col. Sir John Carrington, C.M.G.) addressed a few words to the men, impressing upon them the importance of making the best use of their time in camp.

Last night Lieut. Armstrong acted as Chairman at a concert. Some capital songs were given.

This morning at eight o'clock there was Church Parade for all units, the Presbyterian Chaplain (the Rev. G. W. Williams) preaching. He delivered a most able and appropriate discourse.

This afternoon a football match took place between teams selected from the Field Battery and "A" Machine Gun Company, the Field Battery winning by four goals to nil.

There have been a good many visitors in the camp this evening, including a number of ladies.

Wednesday Night.

This afternoon being observed as a half holiday in the city, quite a number of visitors came to the camp, the figure being considerably augmented in the evening, it being guest night. Among those who were present at dinner were H. E. the Governor and H. E. Major-General Gascoigne, both being received on their arrival by a guard of honour composed of the three Machine Gun Companies, in charge of Captain Vaughan.

After dinner a capital concert took place.

In the afternoon the different units went out for shooting practice, the Machine Gun Companies going to a spot on the Kowloon City Road behind Yanmat, and the other units to other parts of the Peninsula.

Thursday Night.

Before breakfast this morning the different units were marched on to the Parade ground in Robinson Road, where they were put through Battalion drill by the Commandant (Lieut. Col. Sir John Carrington, C.M.G.), who complimented the men at the conclusion of the different movements, saying that considering that they had so little Battalion drill they had done very well.

To-morrow night a concert got up by "C" Machine Gun Company takes place.

Major General Wogack, who was in command of the Russian troops between Taku and Tientsin, arrived at Kobe on the 2nd inst. by the *Hakusai-maru*. He has resigned his command to General Yanjale, on the score of ill-health.

THE MURDERS AND PIRACY ON THE "NAO-CHAU."

At the Magistracy on the 20th inst. Mr. Hazeland (as Coroner) and M. Leon Gme. Le Roux the French Consul (as representing the French Republic) sat to enquire into the circumstances attending the deaths of Leong Tai Yau and To Kit, seamen of the launch *Nao-chau* which took place on the 12th inst., while the launch was on the high seas.

Dr. Thompson said he was the Medical Officer in charge of post mortem examinations at the Public Mortuary. On the 15th inst. he examined the bodies of two Chinese who were stated to have been brought from the launch *Nao-chau*, and both of whom were identified by the Captain, Cheong Kwai, and by Leong Hang Kee, the compradore. On the body of To Kit there were two bullet wounds on the left arm; three on the right leg; one on the right hand, and one in the abdomen. There were several compound fractures of bones in various parts of the body, and he (witness) was of opinion that death had been caused from gunshot wounds. There was a gun-shot wound on the right side of the upper part of the chest on the body of the compradore, the bullet passing through the right lung. He (Dr. Thompson) was of opinion that the cause of death had been hemorrhage through the bullet wound in the chest.

Cheong Kwai, the captain of the launch, said that the vessel belonged to Messrs. Sculfort and Co., and traded between here and Kwongchauwan. On the 12th instant as they were making their way from the latter port to Hongkong, and when a little N.W. of Mongs-shan, at about half-past twelve in the morning, they were boarded by three men who immediately made for the bridge. The pilot, quarter-master, and the witness were on the bridge together, and without saying a word the three men commenced hacking at them with sharp pointed axes which they had in their hands. Witness managed to throw one of the pirates overboard, and he was drowned, but a short time afterwards the two remaining pirates succeeded in pushing the quarter-master over board to meet with a similar fate. Witness and the pilot were then taken below and locked up in the after cabin whence they were subsequently taken out and put in the fore-castle, where the remainder of the crew were imprisoned.

Leong Hang Ki said it was about midnight when he first heard the pirates, and shortly afterwards he was beaten with some sticks, locked in the fore-castle, and struck with an axe, rendering him unconscious. On his coming to and being released he found the men had gone, and had taken with them 14 cases of silver valued at \$32,000, a silver watch belonging to a military gentleman, two watches belonging to a man named Ling, and a gold mounted bangle. A case of brandy, a bag of sugar, a pair of binoculars, four Winchester carbines, an aneroid barometer, a revolver, and a clock were also taken away.

Detective Inspector Hanson, who conducted the proceedings on behalf of the police, said that it was most advisable to have the fact that the cargo was broached on the Record, as the Chinese Government would have something to work upon, and might be able to "place" the missing cargo. M. Therny, the manager of Messrs. Sculfort & Co. the owners of the launch having given formal evidence of ownership, said he was about to visit Kwongchauwan in a few days, and would communicate the result of his enquiries to Mr. Hanson. Yeong Sing, the engineer of the launch said he was awakened by the noise on deck, and rushed up from the engine room where he was on duty, after Leung Tai Yau. The latter was shot immediately he reached the deck. He then went below again, and subsequently by peering through a port-hole saw the robbers leave by a junk. While he was below two of the robbers came down and pointing revolvers at him, made him disconnect the eccentric rods, ran the water off the boilers, and draw the fires. It was not till early morning that he could get on deck, and release his comrades. The robbers spoke the Samsing dialect. Mr. Hazeland then gave his decision as follows: "That certain persons unknown, on the 12th

October 1900, with force of arms upon the high seas in and on board a certain ship called the *Nao-chau*, piratically, feloniously and violently did steal, take and carry away fourteen boxes of silver to the value of \$32,000, and divers other money and goods from the said *Nao-chau*, and further the said persons unknown, with intent to commit such piracy as aforesaid, did feloniously, wilfully, and of their malice aforethought, kill and murder Leung Tai Yau and To Kit, mariners on board the said ship *Nao-chau*."

CONCERT AT ST. GEORGE'S HALL.

Messrs. Alec Marsh and A. G. Ward's First Subscription Concert of the season took place at St. George's Hall last night, beginning at 9 o'clock. A large and representative gathering was present, including, among others, the Hon. Lady Blake, and suite, and proved a thorough success to end Mr. Marsh, Brewitt, Mrs. Messrs. Lammert and Messrs. Ward, Grimble, Grace and Schroter, instrumentalists, enabled all present to pass a most pleasant evening. Encores were frequent throughout, and the audience appeared most eager to express its approbation—on one occasion, indeed, a little too early, thereby marring the end of that fine song "Life," well rendered by Mr. Marsh. The main attraction of the evening, of course, was the magnificent song cycle, "In a Persian Garden," in which Mrs. Mudie, Mrs. Lane, Mr. Marsh and Mr. Lammert introduced to Hongkong a composition which we are not likely to forget soon. The quartette blended excellently, though Mr. Lammert was a trifle hoarse towards the end—he had just arrived from camp, we believe. All four performers came in for unstinted applause, and the two ladies, who were both making their debut, Mrs. Mudie as soprano, and Mrs. Lane as contralto, instantly made their hearers feel that a distinct addition has been made to the vocal resources of the colony. If only the succeeding concerts are up to the standard of the first, Messrs Marsh and Ward are heartily to be thanked for the pleasure which they have given to all who are fortunate enough to hear them. Certainly no better musical entertainment has taken place in Hongkong for many years, if ever.

We must not omit to mention that the Concert Grand Piano, supplied by the Robinson Piano Co., gave great satisfaction, its tone and quality being all that could be desired. It was, we understand, specially constructed for concert work in the Far East by the makers, Messrs. John Brinsmead and Sons.

The Programme was:—

PART FIRST.

1. Pianoforte Duet (Prelude to Act IV, "Henry VIII") German Messrs. G. Grimble and A. G. Ward
2. Songs: (a) "Oh, Star of Eve" (from "Tannhauser") Wagner (b) "To Anthea" Hallon Mr. Alec Marsh
3. Song... "The Requital" Blumenthal Mrs. Mudie
4. Song... "My Love, Farewell!" Neesler Mr. E. E. Hill
5. Song... "Beloved, it is Morn" Florence Mrs. Brewitt
6. Song... "Lovely Spring" Coenen Mr. G. P. Lammert
7. Trio (two Violins and Pianoforte) "Dances Bohemiennes" Haywood Messrs. C. Schröter, L. Grace, and A. G. Ward
8. Song... "Meditation" Chénery Mr. E. E. Hill
9. Songs: (a) "Life" Blumenthal (b) "Long ago in Alcala" Massager Mr. Alec Marsh
10. Quartette "Sweet and Low" Barby Mesdames Mudie and Brewitt, and Messrs. Lammert and Marsh

PART SECOND.

- Song Cycle "In a Persian Garden" L. Lehmann
 Soloists { Soprano—Mrs. Mudie; Contralto—Mrs. Lane; Tenor—Mr. G. P. Lammert; Bass—Mr. Alec Marsh

THE STAUNTON STREET BACK-YARDS CASE.

THE SUMMONSES DISMISSED.

At the Magistracy on the 22nd inst. Mr. Hazeland gave his decision in the case of Brett v. Wong Chuk-yau. He said—

The Defendant is summoned pursuant to Section 7 of Ordinance No. 34 of 1899, under two summonses, for that he unlawfully extended the kitchen floor of houses No. 29 and 41, Staunton Street, thus entirely obstructing the backyards of the said buildings.

The defence put forward was that the Sanitary Board granted to the Defendant permission in writing to extend the kitchen floor of the two houses referred to in the said two summonses. The point for my decision is as to the construction to be placed on two letters put in at the trial. The letters are as follows:—

72, Hollywood Road,

Hongkong, 16th September, 1900.

To Dr. F. W. CLARK.

Dear Sir,—I beg most respectfully to write to ask for a permission of exemption for opening a back-yard in houses No. 29 and 41, Staunton Street, owing to the above mentioned houses being one side on the border of the cross street about 24 feet wide, and having windows opened facing to the street to communicate with the fresh air.

Herewith find the plan of the above mentioned houses, by which you will get the idea more plainly.

It will be kind enough if your honour will grant me a permission for the exemption of opening a back-yard in houses No. 29 and 41, Staunton Street, at your earliest convenience. —I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

TAM CHIN.

Sanitary Board Office,
19th September, 1900.

Nos 29 and 41, Staunton Street.
Sir,—In reply to your letter dated September 16th, applying for exemption from providing back-yards for the above houses, I beg to inform you that the Board have decided to accept these houses, as complying with Ordinance 34 of 1899.

Plans returned herewith.

I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

G. A. WOODCOCK,
Acting Secretary.

Mr. Tam Chin.

On the date of the letter of the 16th September, 1900, the back-yards of the said two houses were opened, and this fact was known to the Sanitary Board. The plan which accompanied the said letter shows the back-yard without an open space. I am of opinion that the average reasonable man would construe this letter after carefully comparing it with the plan which was sent with it, as an application to be exempted from having an open space for the reasons set out in the paragraph of the said letter.

With respect to the reply of the Sanitary Board dated the 19th September, 1900, I am of opinion that the average reasonable man would consider the said reply as granting the application and that the Sanitary Board, for the reasons set out in the first paragraph of the letter of the 16th September, 1900, would accept the said houses without being provided with open spaces, as was shown in the said plan which accompanied the application. I attach great weight to the plan which was sent and I am bound to assume that the Sanitary Board when they wrote this reply had the plan before them.

I therefore find for the Defendant and order both summonses to be dismissed.

Mr. Bowley (Crown Solicitor) appeared for the prosecution and Mr. Wilkinson for the defendant.

The Russian Government has purchased at a figure of between £120,000 and £130,000, the Pacific Steam Navigation Company's steamer *Potosi*. She is a new vessel, and has only just completed her trial trips. The Russians have also purchased the iron steamer *Cephalonia* of 5,006 tons gross, and 3,515 tons net, but the purchase money has not been disclosed. The *S. B. Bendi*, a steel steamer of 2,297 tons net, has been sold for £29,000 to Genoa buyers.

SOLDIERS AND SAILORS' CHINA RELIEF FUND.

THE LADIES WORKING COMMITTEE.

We have received the following letters for publication:—

Head Quarter House,

Hongkong, 25th October.

DEAR SIR,—I forward you the enclosed letter from Brigadier General Campbell, which I have just received.—Yours truly,

H. GASCOIGNE.

[Enclosure.]

Tientsin, 4th October, 1900.

DEAR MADAM,—I have duly received for distribution the three cases of gifts from the ladies of Hongkong for the sick and wounded soldiers of the force in N. China—and in their name I write to thank you and the ladies of Hongkong for your kindness, and welcome gifts—I remain, dear Madam, yours truly,

LORN CAMPBELL,

Brig.-Gen. Commanding Lines
of Communication.

Mrs. Gascoigne,
Hongkong.

[There was a balance of \$70 left of the subscriptions to the fund stated in these columns, and this we yesterday forwarded to Mrs. Gascoigne, who kindly accepted it to be used for the sick and wounded as she may think advisable.—Ed. D.P.]

CHANGES IN THE PACIFIC MAIL COMPANY.

Our London correspondent telegraphed on the 24th inst.—The *New York Times* says that Mr. Harriman, successor to Mr. Huntington, has acquired the majority of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company capital stock. Mr. Vanderbilt is interested in the concern. The Company contemplates adding many new steamers for the Far Eastern trade.

The above telegram does not make it clear to what extent Mr. Harriman has succeeded to the place of the late Mr. Huntington. The latter gentleman, who died in the middle of last month, was not only President of the Pacific Mail Co., but also President and owner of the Southern Pacific Line, and controlled all lines leading into San Francisco. The office of President of the Southern Pacific has been open since Mr. Huntington's death and his probable successor was not known at the date when the last mail left America. Mr. Harriman occupies a presidential capacity in the Union Pacific Co., part owners of the O. and O. chartered line. It is well known that the Vanderbilts have long been wanting an approach to the Pacific Coast, which during Mr. Huntington's life time they could not obtain. If now they have "an interest in the concern" they have obtained the desired access to San Francisco, and big developments may be looked for. Some time before Mr. Huntington's death considerable changes were anticipated in the Pacific Mail Co., and two 12,000 ton steamers were in course of construction at Mr. Huntington's yards at Newport. The first of these was expected to be ready by next May. Still greater enterprise may be looked for now, if the Vanderbilts and Mr. Harriman are working together.

The following is an excerpt from a report sent home quite recently by the British Consul General at Odessa on the tea trade:—It is gratifying to find that Ceylon tea is being consumed in increasing quantities, and is competing favourably with the Chinese leaf, and the importance of the Russian market is such that the Ceylon traders will doubtless make the best of the opportunity to strengthen the foothold they have secured. The bulk of the tea imported in Odessa passes in transit to Moscow and other towns, so that the advantage is of more than local significance. Moreover, the output of the plantations in the Caucasus has not turned out very successfully, owing largely to the high cost of production, and the trouble in China is not at all unlikely to have the effect of further improving the chances open to Ceylon.

SINGAPORE ESTIMATES FOR 1901.

Reports by Select Committee on the Estimates for 1901 have been laid before Council at Singapore. The Committee for Singapore and Malacca—Messrs. Egerton, Merewether, Anthoniss, Hill, Burkinshaw, Napier Laird, Earle, and Lim Boon Keng—reported in favour of increasing the Estimates for Singapore by \$168,743. Two clerks to cost \$1,560 a year have been added to the Treasury staff. It is understood, however, that, as increase of work in connection with the Federated Malay States accounts partly necessitates the employment of these clerks, the Federated Malay States will be asked to bear a portion of the cost. Division of opinion arose as to spending \$100,000 on an estimate of \$276,000 upon a new museum. Three of the unofficial members held that the money would be better spent on enlarging or duplicating Cavenagh Bridge, or on further improving the Singapore River or on larger outlay upon the Keppel Harbour Canal. Three out of the four unofficial members objected to the canal item appearing in the Estimates as "Canal from Singapore River to Keppel Harbour." They urged that the heading should be changed to: "Expenditure of \$100,000 on account for improvement of the ways by which goods may be carried, which are now carried by tongkangs on the river under great difficulties."

MACAO.

BALL IN HONOUR OF THE GOVERNOR'S BIRTHDAY.

[BY OUR SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE.]

The popularity and high esteem which His Excellency Senhor Conselheiro Jose Maria de Souza Horta e Costa is enjoying at Macao was once more proved by the citizens of the colony on Saturday last on the occasion of his birthday. When His Excellency was appointed to be Governor, everybody was very much pleased, and the leading residents decided to give him a hearty reception on his arrival, but unfortunately at the time the people were all too much absorbed with the affairs in Peking and the North generally to think of getting up anything, so it was decided to postpone the festivities to some more appropriate occasion.

At a little before midnight on Friday a large number of the personal friends of His Excellency congregated before the Government House to herald in the 20th of October, and as the town clock struck twelve there was a discharge of crackers and fire-works, while the band struck up a lively air. The whole party then went in and was received by His Excellency, who caused refreshments to be served, and the health of the Governor was drunk. The main attraction was, however, the ball, which was announced to take place in the Club Uniao in his honour. For this purpose the spacious ball-rooms of the Club were placed at the disposal of a very large and influential committee, composed of some of the leading Portuguese and Chinese gentlemen of the colony, aided by a sub-committee of willing workers who discharged their duties in a capital style. The palm of honour must be awarded to the Decoration Committee, as their work both internally and externally was very artistic and effective. The facade of the Club House was illuminated by small coloured lamps and Japanese lanterns, interspersed with numerous small Portuguese flags, making a very effective arrangement. Within the ball-rooms were decorated in a very plain and unpretentious style. The theatre of Dom Pedro V, however, which was converted into a supper-room, was a marvel of beauty, quite a fairyland. On the stage was placed a portrait of the Governor, and an artificial fountain was playing during the supper, the effect being considerably heightened by the aid of coloured fairy lamps. The invitation was for 9.30, and His Excellency, accompanied by his wife and staff, arrived at 10.20 p.m., and was received by the committee with rounds of applause. Dancing was started at once and was kept up with much spirit to five o'clock on Sunday morning, the band of the Police Force supplying the music.

At 2 a.m. a very sumptuous supper was served, during which the president of the ball

Mr. A. J. Basto, in an eloquent speech proposed the health of the guest of the evening, which was most enthusiastically greeted. His Excellency, on rising to respond to the toast, was received with applause. He thanked every one present, especially the committee, for their kindness and for the many tokens of friendship which the people of Macao had always accorded to him, both during his previous and present tenure of office, and said that he felt proud of the honour conceded to him by his Government in twice deputing him to administer the affairs of Macao. His Excellency concluded by drinking to the prosperity of Macao and its people. The guests numbered about five hundred, including nearly all the government officials, naval and military officers and some foreigners and people from Hongkong. The arrangements for the accommodation and comfort of such a large gathering were most efficiently carried out, and every one left highly impressed with the kind and hospitable treatment received from the committee which was composed of the following gentlemen:—Antonio Joaquim Basto, Carlos Rocha d'Assumpção, Choi-sin-Ip, Eduardo Cyrillo Lourenço, Firmino Machado de Mendonça, Ho-lin-Yong, José Ribeiro, Lu-Cao, Lu-kwong-Lu, O-Loc, Pedro Nolasco da Silva, Secundino Antonio Noronha.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 20th October.
GREAT PROGRESS MADE BY THE REBELS
IN KWANGTUNG.

In my last letter I reported that Waichow had been attacked and occupied by the rebels, but that upon the arrival of the Imperial troops they had fled and scattered in every direction. Later news, however, has reached Canton that they have mustered a great force, to the number of about 20,000, mostly Hakkas and Tungkun men, and repulsed the attack of the Imperial troops, a great number of the latter being killed and wounded, and four officers of the Imperial army caught and beheaded as a sacrifice to the Flags of Rebellion. The rebels are no doubt men of the Secret Societies, and are going to join their brethren in Samchun. Their flags bear the characters of Kang, Leang, Ho, Chiang, and Sun; their motto is "to protect foreigners and destroy Manchus." It is said that they are subsidised by their brethren in Singapore and America. The partisans of Sun Yet-sun, alias Sun-man, are far more numerous than those of Kang Yu-wei. When they first started in Waichow they did not rob, nor did they do any harm to the inhabitants, but merely gathered what arms and ammunition and collected what followers as they could find on the way. They are reported to have said to one of the missionaries: "You can go your own way, and we are not going to rob or do you any harm." During the last two or three days they are said to have advanced as far as Foklo and Tamsui. The troops the Viceroy sent are under the command of Lew Pang-shing, Ma Wai Chi, Mok Shien-shi, Teng Wan Lin and Cheang Wai Lin. The worst of the thing is that so many of the Triad Society joined the Imperial army, and on the battlefield these turned their weapons against the rest of the troops.

TROUBLES IN KWANGSI.

It is also reported that the local banditti in Kwangsi have risen in rebellion, and being joined by the men of the "Three Dots" society of Kocho, Lui Chow, Lim Chow, and King chow, in large numbers, are giving immense trouble to the local officials. The governor of Kwangsi applied to the Acting Viceroy at Canton for reinforcements; the latter replied that he could hardly spare any soldiers. It seems that a rebellion is gathering round Kwangtung.

The Tokyo Tram Company intends to change its name to "Central Electric Tram Company," since it has obtained permission to substitute electricity for horse power. A meeting of the shareholders was to be held on the 20th inst. to discuss details. Its capital, hitherto 1,700,000 yen, will be raised to 5 millions in shares of 50 yen each. The period of the Company's charter has been extended from the 45th to the 55th year of Meiji.

MANILA.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Manila, 17th October.

WAITING FOR THE NEW PRESIDENT.—BAD EFFECT ON MILITARY OPERATIONS.

Apparently everything in the islands except the Commission and the Custom House has stopped working, pending the result of the Presidential elections. Perhaps it would be more correct if I coupled the insurgent army with the Commission, for certainly the "brown men" have been active enough of late to suit the most warlike of Filipinos. In a large part of the occupied territory the Americans are doing practically nothing. Perhaps there is little or nothing to do in many of the garrisons, in view of the small number of their men, except to sit down and attend to their own goals, as the insurgents may take it into their heads to come dribbling around, and make a few points in the game, just to show that there is no ill feeling. This morning I was talking to a man who recently came up from the Cagayan district of Mindanao, which place is destined to become of considerable commercial importance. In speaking of the situation there, he said that the soldiers were chiefly occupied in the pleasant pastime of following the sun around their barracks, and that there had been little or nothing in the way of military operations for some time past. Occasionally, when the insurgents became bold and shot up the town a little, the troops started out with noise and show and hunted around the country for a while; but they seldom accomplished much in the way of punishing the enemy. However, a short time ago they managed to bag an influential native officer, and perhaps they are resting on their laurels. At any rate the Filipinos thought that the Americans were becoming too troublesome, and they promptly set out and cut down an important bridge so that the line of travel in that part of the country is now broken; so far nothing has been done towards repairing the bridge.

NORTH CENTRAL LUZON.

The recent success of the insurgents in the vicinity of Cabanatuan, in North Central Luzon, has started them off in that district again, and the surrounding country has been suffering from frequent raids as a consequence. The twenty men of the 24th Infantry who were captured there a fortnight ago, are still unrescued, and are in all probability rambling over the mountains to the tune of a Filipino band.

FIFTY-ONE AMERICAN PRISONERS RESCUED ON MARINDUQUE ISLAND.

After thirty-one days of captivity, during which they endured all kinds of suffering, hardship and hunger, Captain Shields and his fifty-one men of the 29th Infantry have been recovered on the island of Marinduque. On the 12th of last September, Captain Shields and his company were ambushed a short distance inland from the town of Terrijos. The fight began about three o'clock in the morning and lasted through the day until the early part of the afternoon. Captain Shields was severely wounded in the morning, but with the utmost courage and bravery he maintained the active command of his men. Finally in the afternoon the fire became very severe and was brought to bear on the Americans, who were forced into a ravine, from all four sides. The captain was shot again, this time through the neck, and he fell in a pool of water where he would have drowned if it had not been for the heroic assistance of a member of the hospital corps, who rushed to the officer, dragged him out of the water and bound up his wounds. Knowing that he was completely disabled and perhaps mortally wounded, Captain Shields ordered the first sergeant to take command of the men and fight a way out, and to abandon him, as he could only hinder their escape. In the meantime the insurgents were coming nearer and nearer, and as the bolomen could be plainly seen, the captain ordered the hospital assistant who still remained at his side to hold up a piece of the first aid bandage as a sign of a surrender, so that he would not be held to death. The sergeant, who was now some distance off, saw the bit of white linen over the captain and thought that it was a signal to surrender, so he ordered his men to hold up their arms. The insurgents, who were in a

force of some two hundred men, and eight hundred bolomen, immediately rushed upon the little band of Americans, and ordering them to kneel down and hold up their hands, they quickly disarmed them. Ten of the Americans, however, made a break for liberty, but they were captured the next day, after one of their number had been killed.

A FINE PIECE OF WORK.

The rescue of these unfortunate men was brought about through one of the finest bits of campaigning that the Americans have accomplished. The credit is almost entirely due to Major General Bates, whose prompt, energetic and determined work completely broke up the insurgent power. When the news of the disaster arrived he immediately despatched his aide, Lieutenant Reeve, on the gunboat *Yorktown* to Batanga, where Colonel Anderson and two companies of the 89th Infantry were taken on board, and then proceeded to the scene of the fight. General Hare followed with 1,100 men of the 31st Infantry, and these forces, in conjunction with the navy, which rendered the most valuable assistance, occupied the towns, drove the people into the mountains, hounded the insurgents from pillar to post and practically starved them out until they were glad to offer the surrender of the prisoners in order to obtain a short peace. While the army worked inland the navy patrolled the coast and prevented the enemy from escaping to any of the adjacent islands. When the prisoners were restored to their comrades it was found that four had been killed and five wounded, besides the captain, who is now in Manila on a fair road to recovery. General Hare is still on the island, and he offers the insurgents a week's amnesty, which will be ended next Sunday. If on that day all the rifles that are known to be in the hands of the enemy are not surrendered the insurgents can expect nothing better than to be shot on sight without the slightest consideration.

GENERAL QUIET.

With the exception of this Marinduque activity but little can be said of the military operations in other parts of the archipelago, for but little is known. The official bulletins that are posted from day to day by the adjutant general's office are meagre and often unsatisfactory, and numerous operations are never chronicled at all.

IMPORTANT BILLS PASSED BY THE COMMISSION.—MANILA TO HAVE A NEW HARBOUR.

The bi-weekly public Sessions of the Commission are largely attended as a rule, and people of all classes and nationalities take a wholesome interest in the proceedings. After six days of lively public debate the Commission has passed General Wright's Harbour bill, appropriating 1,000,000 dollars gold for the continuation of the work of improving Manila's harbour. The plans of the Spanish engineers were adopted with some very necessary alterations, and the project has been somewhat enlarged to meet the new requirements. It is the intention of the Commission to push this work with the utmost speed, as the members realize what a good harbour means to Manila.

OPPOSITION FROM THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Mr. John Macleod, representing a number of the merchants and shipping firms of the islands, seriously opposed some of the clauses of the bill, but after due consideration his plans were not found to be feasible. The Chamber of Commerce people wanted to have the first improvements made in the river before the work on the outer harbour, i.e. they did not oppose the work on the outer harbour, but they wanted immediate work on the river, which as Mr. Macleod says, is in bad shape, being now two feet shallower than in the time of the Spaniards. Mr. Macleod, as the representative of the International Chamber of Commerce, asked that the principal merchants of the city be formed into an administrative and advisory board which should have control of the works to a large extent. In this way the chief engineer, who is an engineer officer of the army, would not have the complete control that General Wright proposes to give him. However, the scheme of operation for this harbour is the same as those which govern similar works in the States to-day, and as it is entirely satisfactory, no change has been made on account of the suggestions of the local business men.

men. The bill, which is now law, provides for a bridge across the Paig River at a point between the Ando Monument and the Bridge of Spain. This was combatted by the merchants, as it is said that such a bridge will seriously interfere with the river navigation, in so far as it applies to the movements of seagoing vessels that are now accustomed to take berths well up in the river. The proposed bridge is to have a central pier of stone seventy-five feet in length and two draws, allowing a passage way for ships of one hundred and seventy-five feet on either side. The Commission has evinced a sincere desire to learn all that is possible from those who speak from experience with river and harbour work, and it is willing to change the plans or location of the bridge, if any better plan is presented for relieving the present congested state of the river.

The bill provides for the thorough advertising of the plans and specifications of this great work, so that contractors in all parts of the world may interest themselves in the bidding.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

THE NEGLECTED OVER-CROWDING QUESTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 19th October.

SIR.—Some months ago the question of overcrowding and rack-renting was one of the leading local topics, and from promising utterances it was expected that relief could not be far off. Such utterances, however, have proved to be a mere flash in the pan; while the congested state of the colony has become aggravated by an influx of Chinese refugees from the mainland.

It will be of public interest to know under the circumstance whether there is any probability of the recent territorial acquisition being availed of for the relief of the community. Consequent on the abnormal increase of rent, distress prevails among the poorer class. Moreover, the fact of plague still claiming victims at this time of the year is most significant.

The Sanitary Board with its limited attributes counts for little. If no remedy is to be had from the local Legislature, the colony should voice its grievances and perils in high quarters at home, conscious that less momentous matters have led to parliamentary enquiries.—Yours, etc.

"JOB."

KANG YU-WEI AND THE KWANG-TUNG REBELS—A DISCLAIMER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 24th October.

SIR.—As the insurgents at Huichow have been making use of my name in connection with their movements, I desire this to be known that neither I nor any member of my Reform Party have ever been associated with the troubles at Huichow.—I am, etc.

KANG YU-WEI.

[We were asked to insert the above by a gentleman claiming to represent the "Reformer."—ED.]

THE "TERRIBLE" FUND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

18, Bank Buildings,

24th October.

DEAR SIR.—I should be much obliged if you would kindly make known, through the medium of your columns, the fact that the balance of the Terrible Fund, amounting to \$1,069, was forwarded by me to-day to Captain Percy Scott at Weihaiwei, he having informed me by letter that the Fund could be most usefully applied in assisting the widows of the deceased members of the crew of the Terrible and also in helping those who have been disabled.—I am, dear sir, yours, etc.

H. E. POLLOCK.

Hon. Secretary,

Terrible Committee

JAPAN AND THE AMOY-FORMOSA PASSAGE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Taikoku Shinkigai, Formosa,

19th October.

SIR.—It is not right to state that if the Douglas Company had "looked ahead" some years ago, they might still be possessors of profitable trade. Their attempt to retain a monopoly of Formosa trade with highest freight rates and 25 yen passage money to Amoy—an eighteen-hour journey—met the natural defeat. First attempts were made to compete by other steamship companies, but the instant falling of Douglas charges drove others out. It was bad for Formosa, and as they could not compete otherwise a government subsidy was given. Now we have reasonable freight and passage charges.

The Osaka Shosen Kaisha of Japan will find amusement in "Look Ahead" writing that the Osaka Shosen Kaisha is owned by Formosa officials. We say "one line of falsehood, burn the book." I enclose my card.—I am, etc., M. Y.

OVERCROWDING IN CHINESE THEATRES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 25th October.

SIR.—May I through the medium of your valuable columns call the attention of the Government to the overcrowding in the Chinese theatres?

Last night the Ko-Shing theatre was so crammed that many of the spectators would have been crushed to death if a fire had taken place. The passages were not only packed with men, but also blocked up with bamboo stools scattered about.

As prevention is better than cure, I would suggest that the proprietors or lessees of these theatres be called upon to give an undertaking that they will keep the passages clear and will not issue more tickets than there are seats for.—Yours, etc.,

PRECAUTION.

[We can bear witness to the justice of our correspondent's complaint. During the performances of popular companies the theatre is apt to be very much congested. The maintenance of a clear gangway, on which the County Council at home insists so rigorously, is often entirely neglected here.—Ed. D.P.]

ALICE AND NETHERSOLE HOSPITALS.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge, with thanks, the following donations to the funds of the Hospitals:—

Kwok Sui Lan	...	...	...	\$25
Lai Hing Hong	...	...	...	25
Leong Yau Po	...	...	...	25
Mok Tso Chuen	...	...	...	25
Wei Lun Shek	...	...	...	25
Wong Chuk Yau	...	...	...	25
Chin Hand On	...	...	...	25
Cheong Tat Ting	...	...	...	20
Yung Yik Ting	...	...	...	20
Ip Chuk Kai	...	...	...	15
Compradore, Siemssen & Co.	...	...	...	15
Yung Shin Po	...	...	...	10
"	Dodwell, Carlill & Co.	...	...	10
Chan Un Ming	...	...	...	10
Ng San Kuk	...	...	...	10
Wong Yu Chuen	...	...	...	10
Chee On & Co.	...	...	...	10
Lee Wo	...	...	...	10
Wang Hing	...	...	...	10
Wong Shu Tong	...	...	...	10
Compradore, Carlowitz & Co.	...	...	...	5
"	Nippon Yusen Kaisha	...	...	5
"	Reuter Brockelmann	...	...	5
"	& Co.	...	...	5
Leong Pui Chi	...	...	...	5
Lo Cheung Ku	...	...	...	5
She Tat Choy	...	...	...	5
A. Chee & Co.	...	...	...	5
Cheong Hing	...	...	...	5
Chong We	...	...	...	5
Compradore, Nervegna & Co.	...	...	...	5

Ki Sun	...	...	...	\$5
Kwan Tai	...	...	...	5
Lau Chu Pak	...	...	...	5
Shi Po Sham	...	...	...	5
Sun Shing	...	...	...	5
Tai Shing	...	...	...	5
Tak Cheong	...	...	...	5
To Yin Ting	...	...	...	5
Wai Wo	...	...	...	5
Wo Kee	...	...	...	5
Yee On	...	...	...	5
Yee Wo	...	...	...	5
Yeong Hing	...	...	...	5
Under \$5	...	...	...	12

\$462

CHINA TRADERS' INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

The 94th ordinary meeting of the shareholders in the China Traders' Insurance Company, Limited, was held at the offices, Queen's Buildings, on Tuesday, 23rd inst., at noon. Mr. A. J. Raymond presided, and there were also present Messrs. A. Haupt, J. Thurburn (directors); H. P. Wadman (Acting Secretary) E. Osborne, G. T. Veitch, S. A. Joseph, R. C. Wilcox, R. K. Leigh, G. H. Dann, J. C. Peter, C. Palmer, W. H. Wickham, and F. D. Goddard.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the report and statement of accounts having been in your hands for some time, we will, with your permission and in accordance with our usual custom, take them as read. There is little in them that calls for any special comment, but you will notice with satisfaction that both our net premium and balance of working account show an improvement, enabling us, after payment of the same dividend and bonus as last year, to materially increase the amount carried forward, which however is still considerably less than the provision which was formerly made, and which we hope again in the near future to make. Latterly the political troubles, which have unfortunately occurred in China, have made the conduct of our business more than usually difficult, but I am glad to be able to inform you that, notwithstanding these difficulties, the volume of our business has been well maintained, and the Board have every confidence both as regards the present position of the Company and its future. The loans on mortgage have been submitted to the usual scrutiny and our surveyors' reports are unreservedly satisfactory. The bulk of our mortgages were invested some years ago when the value of property was much lower than it is to-day. There is no other point which occurs to need any comment, but before moving the adoption of the report I shall be glad to reply to any questions that shareholders may wish to ask.

There being no questions the report was adopted, on the motion of the CHAIRMAN seconded by Mr. OSBORNE.

On the motion of Mr. PETER, seconded by Mr. VEITCH, Messrs. Haupt and Sachse were re-elected directors.

On the motion of Mr. WILCOX seconded by Mr. PALMER, Messrs. Arnold and Jeffreys were re-elected auditors.

The CHAIRMAN—Thank you very much for your attendance. Dividend warrants will be ready to-morrow.

The Shanghai Mercury understands that the seal of Liao Shohbeng, the Chinese President of the Board of Rites, which was taken from the Bureau at Peking after the Imperial City was occupied by the Allied Forces, is to be sold by Messrs. A. C. Russell & Co. The seal, which consists of 11 lbs. of solid silver, and is said to be 133 years old, is on view at the Astor House.

The Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering Company (Limited) have contracted with Messrs. A. R. Brown, McFarlane & Co. (Limited), of Glasgow, for a large steamer for the Nippon Yusen Kaisha Company of Japan. Particulars of the two steamers which are being built by the Norddeutscher Lloyd and will be running next year, are now officially announced. The first, the Kaiser Wilhelm II, is 19,500 tons register, and 38,000 horse-power, and the second, the Kronprinz Wilhelm, 15,900 tons register, and 33,000 horse-power.

THE DAIRY FARM COMPANY, LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to shareholders at the fourth ordinary yearly meeting, to be held at the Company's depot, Wyndham Street, on Friday, the 18th November, at noon.

The directors herewith present to the shareholders a statement of the Company's accounts for the year ended 31st July, 1900.

The profit for the year (including \$2,117.71, brought forward from last account) after writing off \$4,662.14 for depreciation, providing for bad debts, and directors' and auditor's fees, amounts to \$18,085.35, from which it is proposed to pay a dividend of one dollar per share, absorbing \$10,000; to transfer to reserve \$5,000 and carry forward \$3,085.35.

DIRECTORS.

The Board have to deplore the death of Capt. Burnie, who had been a director of the Company since September, 1892.

Captain Tillett and Dr. Noble retire by rotation, and being eligible offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITOR.

Mr. F. Henderson being absent, Mr. W. H. Gaskell has audited the accounts in his stead. Mr. F. Henderson offers himself for re-election at this meeting.

A. TILLET,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 18th October, 1900.

BALANCE SHEET, 31st JULY, 1900.		\$	c.
To capital, 10,000 shares at \$7.50 each.....	75,000.00		
Less not called up, \$1.50 per share.....	15,000.00		
	60,000.00		
To accounts payable	4,514.52		
To dividend uncollected	836.28		
To profit and loss	18,085.35		
	\$83,436.15		

By cattle	\$32,138.99		
Less written off	3,138.99	\$	c.
	29,000.00		
By property.—Farm lots 18, 19, 25 and 38	12,000.00		
By buildings	\$10,790.00		
Less written off	790.00		
	10,000.00		
By town depot	9,000.00		
By stores and utensils	\$1,493.15		
Less written off	493.15		
	1,000.00		
By cash in bank and on hand	7,051.42		
By Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, deposit	8,000.00		
By accounts receivable	6,884.73		
By fodder on hand	500.00		
	\$83,436.15		

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.		\$	c.
To written off cattle	\$3,138.99		
To written off buildings	790.00		
To written off stores and utensils	493.15		
To furniture (written off)	240.00		
	4,662.14		
To bad debts	32.96		
To directors' and auditor's fees	1,025.00		
To balance	18,085.35		
	\$23,805.45		

By balance from last year	\$5,717.71	\$	c.
Less dividend	3,600.00		
	2,117.71		
By transfer fees	3.50		
By balance of working account	21,685.24		
	\$23,805.45		

Mr. Couperus, late of the Botanic Garden, Java, writes to the *Strait Times* on the use of dried coffee-leaves, and says: "There is a good chance that even Europeans will find it a refreshing beverage if 'coffee-tea' is well prepared. In Germany and Holland, the lower classes all drink a beverage which they call coffee. That is, however, but a name, as a minimum quantity of ground coffee is mixed with ground chicory-root, and the result is a nasty-tasting beverage. I am opinion that even among these classes 'coffee-tea' would become popular, it being without doubt a much better-tasting beverage than the one above mentioned." He thinks that heaps of coffee-leaves now thrown away in pruning, and topping the trees would bring a great profit to coffee-planters.

CRICKET.

OVER 30 v. UNDER 30.

On Saturday last the experiment of beginning a match at 12.30 p.m., and continuing without a break till sundown, was tried, the old and the young members of the Club being arrayed against one other. Twelve thirty sharp meant, as usual, half an hour's grace. If this is always to be the case, the innovation will have no merits apparently. In the present instance, the time sufficed to allow each side to finish an innings, but that was not due to the new departure, which is yet on its trial. As a fact that wasted half hour at the start nearly prevented a conclusion being arrived at. The first four wickets of those, who, for the most part, have seen their best cricketing days, realized no more than 47, a cross bat and three first class catches sending back Maitland, Ainslie, Smith and Ward. But Dyson and Langhorne got together and raised the score to 133 before Dyson was held at third man for a sound innings of 47. Then Wall assisted Langhorne to add another 50 before the umpire had to give an appeal for l.b.v. against the gunner, whose innings of 61—much of which was hard hitting—was the highest on his side and materially changed the aspect of the telegraph board. Wall and Mackenzie put on 36 together till the former was well held behind the bowler for a stylish and useful 43. The Scotsman's quota was 18. The catching, ground-fielding and wicket-keeping of the juniors were all more than creditable, and it was due to smartness in these particulars that a strong batting side was so cheaply got rid of. With about two hours before them, Cox's man went in to knock off the 232 of their opponents, and so well were they assisted by those opponents that they topped the senior score by four runs and won a most exciting game. Only three men on the side failed to run into double figures and hitting out (and up) was the order of the afternoon. Clifton-Brown, Burnie and Woodgates all hit well and forced the pace. Krikenbeek hit harder than the rest and ended up with a not-out 84 to his credit. He, however, bore a decidedly charmed existence, for he was thrice palpably missed, once at the beginning of his innings off an easy chance and twice towards the close off difficult chances. When Anderson and Atal had closed their carefully played innings, Noble joined Krikenbeek at 152 and slogged up 30 out of 60, paying particular attention to Smith, before he was bowled by Langhorne. His stay at the wickets made victory possible and his bold smiting quite turned the tide. Grant Smith was last man in with the score at 215, or within 17 of the other side's total. It was a critical moment, but he kept his head, made a good 19, and had the satisfaction of doing most useful service. As above stated, Krikenbeek took out his bat for an invaluable 84 which, discount it as much as you like, was the backbone of his side's score and the cause of his side's victory. Several good catches were brought off by Maitland, Ward, and Mast; but it was the dropped catches that lost the game. Wall gave only two byes and was most useful behind the stumps.

To-day the Public Schools will play the Club, and on Saturday, 3rd November, the L. R. C. and the K. C. C. meet.

Appended are the scores and analysis:—

OVER 30.	
Capt. Ainslie, c Noble, b Hutchinson	4
T. Sercombe Smith, c Anderson, b Krikenbeek	13
F. Maitland, b Krikenbeek	14
A. G. Ward, c Woodgates, b Hutchinson	12
Capt. Langhorne, R.A., l.b.w., b. Atal	61
Capt. Dyson, A.P.D., c Woodgates, b Cox	47
Capt. Wall, c Cox, b Anderson	43
Col. Feverham, b Atal	0
A. Mackenzie, c Noble, b Anderson	18
E. Mast, not out	2
Rev. E. H. Good, R.N., run out	1
Extras	17
	232
UNDER 30.	
Lt. Clifton Brown, R.N., c Mast, b Mackenzie	23
C. M. G. Burnie, c Ward, b Smith	19
J. A. Woodgates, c Maitland, b Smith	17
Lt. Krikenbeek, not out	58
Capt. Hutchinson, b Smith	2
E. D. Anderson, b Langhorne	13
Lt. Atal, b Ainslie	17
P. A. Cox, c Maitland, b Smith	9
J. F. Noble, b Langhorne	30

A. E. Lowe, c Ward, b Mackenzie	1
J. Grant Smith, c Mackenzie, b Langhorne	10
Extras	2

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

UNDER 30.		O.	M.	R.	W.
Hutchinson	6.4	1	31	2	
Krikenbeek	8	—	33	2	
Woodgates	5	—	16	—	
Burnie	2	—	14	—	
Cox	5.1	1	22	1	
Lowe	5	—	23	—	
Atal	6	—	40	2	
Noble	7	—	20	—	
Anderson	3.1	1	11	2	
OVER 30.		O.	M.	R.	W.
T. Sercombe Smith	14	1	88	4	
Mackenzie	13	1	45	2	
Langhorne	13.5	—	60	3	
Good	5	1	15	—	
Ainslie	7	1	27	1	

FOOTBALL.

H.K.F.C. v. UNITED SERVICES.

The opening match of the Rugby season was played at Happy Valley yesterday afternoon, when the Hongkong Club met a team representing the United Services. The latter won the toss, and kicked off, but Clark, for the Hivilians, scored the first try; the ball being picked up from the loose. This was converted into a goal by McMurtrie. The Services soon afterwards had a look in, Sinclair securing a good try, which was not, however, improved upon. On resumption after the interval, the local men pushed matters briskly, with the result that Bishop scored—an effort which McMurtrie failed to make anything of. Johnson followed with a second try for the Club, and the game, which throughout was a hardly-contested one, ended in a win for the Hongkong Club by a goal and two tries to a try. Considering the strength of the opposition the home team has commenced the season well.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

Mr. D. Gillies having kindly consented to present another Cup for shooting, the first competition took place on the 14th inst. The Cup is open to all units residing at Kowloon Docks. Rifles are penalised 1 point at 500, and 3 points at 600 yards; 22 members competed. The best scores were:—

	200	500	600	H'cp.	Tl.
Gunner Stewart	29	27	26	Sc.	82
Gunner Duncan	20	26	23	13	82
Gunner Lapsley	27	30	19	1	77
Sap. Pullen	22	17	22	15	76
Gunner Baldwin	25	28	20	1	74
Sergeant Graham	23	27	15	8	73

A NEW MAGAZINE.

The first number of the new *Monthly Review*, published by Mr. John Murray, is a stout looking volume of about 200 pages, clad in a sober blue paper cover with embossed black lettering and a cameo head. Within the paper and type are of excellent quality, the latter of convenient size. The list of contents is strong, and if the early promise is maintained the new-comer should make as rapid a success as is compatible with the price at which it is sold—half-a-crown. Looking down the contents we see first three editorial articles. "The Paradox of Imperialism" (mainly a discussion on the relation between Liberalism and Imperialism), "After Peking" (to which we shall refer presently), and "Parties and Principles." These follow an excerpt from the Autobiography of the Amir of Afghanistan, which Mr. Murray is about to publish. The narrative, partly written by the Amir and translated from the Persian by Mir Munshi, Sultan Mahomed Khan, partly taken down by the latter from the Amir's own words, describes the early years, personal life, and views on politics, etc., of Abdur Rahman, and from the details here first appearing should be a notable work. There follow articles on "Surgical Experiences in South Africa," by A. A. Bowlby, F.R.C.S.; "The War Training of Naval Officers," by Lieut. Carleton Bellairs, R.N.; "Puzzles of the War," by Spencer Wilkinson; "Recent Eclipses," by Prof. H. H. Turner; "On the Influence of the Stage," by Mrs. Hugh Bell; "Art before Giotto," by Roger

E. Fry, splendidly illustrated from photographs, "T.E.B."—i.e. Thomas Edward Brown, author of "Fool's Yarns"—by A. T. Quiller Couch; "On Loss of Time," by Miss M. F. Coleridge; "The Nile: an Ode," by Henry Newbolt; and the three opening chapters of a new story, "Tristram of Blent," by Anthony Hope, whose admirers will welcome his appearance in the new magazine. Altogether the *Monthly Review* is a fine production, and they must be difficult to please who cannot find in it reading matter to their taste.

We will return now to the second article, "After Peking," and consider what the anonymous writer has to say on China. He takes rather an unusual view of the situation, and puts it forward in an interesting manner, though we imagine that few Englishmen will be in sympathy with it. After touching briefly on the subjects of Jingoism in England and the attitude of Europe to the decaying Empire of China, the writer proceeds to examine the attitude of England toward Russia.

One looks back [he says] even from this short distance with amazement at the way in which, for instance, the occupation of Port Arthur by Russia was treated in respectable journals. If any one will take the trouble to look at a map of China, it is apparent, on the face of it, that Russia's claim to predominance in Manchuria is irresistible. She already owns the country on two sides of it, and has spent large sums of money in the development of her possessions, particularly by means of the Siberian railway. It has long been recognised by statesmen in this country and elsewhere that a terminus to that railway in a reasonably ice-free port is a commercial necessity, and that such a port can only be found in Manchuria. When, therefore, proposed, with the assent of China, to occupy Port Arthur and Taitienwan for that purpose, she was making no extravagant proposal. On the contrary, she was certainly not doing more than we should have done in her place.

The writer might have added, but did not, that we should certainly have brought down on our heads a far more violent storm of abuse by so acting in a similar position. When, moreover, he talks of the occupation by Russia, with "the assent of China," of Port Arthur and Taitienwan, he is misleading. A clique of corrupt Chinese and Manchu officials, it is true, sold their country to the highest bidder, but it is absurd to speak of "China's assent" to the cession. One of the main reasons for the hatred displayed so violently against foreigners during the present crisis was, beyond all doubt, the seizure by outside nations of vast tracts of Chinese territory. But the writer in the *Monthly Review* holds strange ideas on such seizures. He says:

It can scarcely be doubted that, if we were free from all foreign complications and interference, and could exclusively regard the wishes of British merchants [!], we should do right to annex the whole of the Chinese Empire. Not only is it true that trade follows the flag, but apart from this, the commercial policy of Great Britain is unquestionably that which best suits her commercial interests. Unfortunately, any such action is impossible. But it is urged by the forward party that, though we cannot now hope to take the whole of China, we might at least occupy some part of it. Let us, then, occupy the Yangtze Valley, or at the least declare "an informal protectorate" over it.

The first sentence above quoted misrepresents the wiser among the merchants, and we do not know that the most "advanced" among them have ever advocated such a monstrous and impossible step as the annexation of the whole of China; for, after all, they know something about the country. It is not to be denied that in preference by a future absorption into the Russian Empire of Central China the "merchants," and for that matter anyone who cares aught for our interests in the Far East, would welcome the establishment of our claims in the Yangtze region. The reason requires no seeking. When a leading Russian journal like the *Novoe Vremya* can "object to the open-door principle north of the Peiho," we have little cause for changing our opinion that any pledge Russia may give about allowing free trade in whatever part of China she may annex is worthless. This the *Monthly Review* writer probably recognises, for he says, in concluding his article:—

The commercial policy of Russia is worse for us than that of any other nation, and it would be better that Japan or even Germany should be encouraged to take over the Government of the southern and central part of the Empire. In the meantime an attitude of expectancy is all that the Government of this country can at present take up. It may well be that eventually a more active part may be open to it, in the direction of keeping order in the sea-coast towns and waterways of an imperfectly pacified Japanese Empire.

A delightful prospect, truly! But even the home Government has not been quite so unstatesmanlike as the writer of the above lines. What may come of the Anglo-German Agreement we cannot venture to predict; but it promises better things than the author of "After Peking" would allow us.

THE FIRE ON THE "ROHILLA."

As the P. & O. steamer *Rohilla* was steaming into Kobe early on Saturday morning, the 6th inst., a fire was discovered on the port side. The ship's fire appliances had no effect on the burning cargo, and the captain thought it prudent to drop anchor in the Bay instead of going direct to the pier as usual. Mr. Sim, the Superintendent Adviser of the Kobe Fire Brigade, was sent for, and at his suggestion the steamer was put alongside the pier. Four fire-engines were then taken to the pier, and a hydrant fitted with hose, so that the local firemen could play on the flames. An immense quantity of water was thrown into the compartment in which the fire was situated with apparently little effect, as there were only scuttle-holes for the engines to play into. So much water was thrown in that the water in the vessel nearly reached the boiler, and the large fire-engines then ceased work until the ship's bilge pump was got to work to keep the water down. Late in the evening a door was opened from one of the hatches at the stern end of the reserve hold, this being the only entrance to this hold, which is between 60 and 70 feet long. When the door was opened the smoke was for a time so dense that it was impossible for any one to enter, but after playing three streams of water into the hold the smoke decreased, and the officers of the ship did splendid work with a gang of coolies in removing through the small door a great quantity of cargo, consisting mostly of rattan, leather in bales, cinnamon, &c. For a long time the engines continued to play on the fire, and the cargo to be removed as opportunity offered, but little effect seemed to be produced on the outbreak; indeed, about seven o'clock the heat and smoke were so great that the men were driven back and for awhile no work could be done. Then the ship's pumps and the fire-engines were put full speed ahead, and at last the smoke lessened sufficiently to allow the removal of cargo to be resumed. By 9.30 p.m. such good progress had been made that the fire was practically out and the whole of the cargo in the hold could be removed, the Fire Brigade engines returning to the station at 10 p.m. The *Kobe Chronicle* understands that with the exception of the cargo in the reserve hold, where the fire occurred, the general cargo throughout the vessel is in perfect order, and the ship is not injured in the least.

THE GERMAN CIRCULAR NOTE TO THE POWERS.

The following is the full text of the German Circular Note which last month was telegraphed to the German Imperial Embassies in London, Paris, St. Petersburg, Rome, Washington, and Vienna, and to the German Imperial Legation in Tokyo:—

"The Government of his Majesty the Emperor considers that a preliminary condition of entering upon diplomatic dealings with the Chinese Government is the surrender of those persons regarding whom it has been ascertained that they were the original and real instigators of those crimes against the law of nations which were committed in Peking. The number of the criminal instruments employed is too great; an execution *en masse* would be against the conscience of the civilized world. The circumstances of the case, moreover, involve the impossibility of discovering even the whole of the group who were the ringleaders. The few, however, whose guilt is notorious ought to be delivered over and punished. The representatives of the Powers in Peking will be in a position to give or to obtain competent evidence in this investigation. The number of those who are to be punished is of less importance than their character as prime movers and ringleaders. The Government of his Majesty believes that it can reckon upon the unanimity of all the Cabinets on this point; since indifference to the

idea of a righteous expiation would be equivalent to indifference to a repetition of the crime. The Government of his Majesty the Emperor, the reform, proposes to the Cabinets concerned that they should invite their representatives in Peking to designate those leading Chinese personages regarding whose guilt in respect of the instigation or perpetration of the crimes there can be no possible doubt.—BULOW."

CURIOUS STORY FROM PEKING.

A Peking correspondent writes to a contemporary:—The state of frenzy into which the Dowager-Empress was driven about the middle of last June is now explained in the following manner. It appears that Prince Tuan, in order to further his own aims, presented to her Majesty a document which he alleged to be an ultimatum drawn up by the foreign Ministers, which demanded (1) the complete retirement of the Dowager-Empress from position of ruler in China and the reinstatement of Kwang Hsu as Emperor; (2) the placing of Chinese finances under European control and the removal of the seat of the Government from Peking; and (3) the appointment of foreign advisers to six boards, in whose hands the affairs of state would be placed. Wang Wen-chao, Viceroy of Paojingfu, and Hsu Ching-chong, have both denied that they ever presented any such document, but Prince Tuan insisted that it came through Prince Fu-lu.

It is added that on receipt of this ultimatum the Dowager-Empress was convinced of the designs of the foreign Ministers, and that she thereupon authorised a general massacre. The alleged ultimatum is now known to the Imperial refugees to have been a forgery.

FOOCHOW.

The following notes are from the *Foochow Daily Echo* of the 13th inst.:—

With all our best endeavours, the best individual endeavours of foreigner and native alike, to avoid doing anything that might cause trouble, it is irritating to learn that certain American missionaries have insisted on going up to Kucheng in the face of their Consul's orders that they should not go, and against the entreaties of the Provincial Authorities that no missionaries should return to their country stations until peace is assured, for fear of untoward consequences. It is scarcely too much to say that by their action these missionaries are courting danger, and running the risk of disturbing the peace of the port. All loyal people will be indignant at the Consul being disobeyed. And most of us, with the feeling that we are beholden to the Viceroy and Taotais for our freedom from anxiety during the late troublous times (anxiety from which no other port in China has been wholly exempt) would seek to help them now by carrying out their wishes instead of running counter to them. These good Christians did not heed the Consul's orders any more than they seem to have cared to observe St. Paul's maxim to "obey those who rule over you"; they ought to be compelled to return, but they happen to be ladies and are consequently difficult to manage.

It is a long time since a cricket match was played at Foochow, and the event of Thursday last, the F. C. C. v. H.M.S. *Lizard*, brought together quite a number of spectators. Play commenced at noon, the *Lizard's* team going in first. At 1 o'clock tiffin was served in the Pavilion at which upwards of thirty sat down, and play was resumed soon after 2, when the first innings of the Navy team was continued, and shortly afterwards finished with a total of 62 runs. The Foochow team then went in and succeeded in making up a total of 161 runs off what was said to be comparatively easy bowling. The second innings of the *Lizard* followed but could not be completed owing to the falling light. The day was fine and a most enjoyable afternoon was spent by all present, including a great many ladies.

The Osaka Shosen Kaisha's S.S. *Akashi Maru* is due to-day. She is the first of the new line of steamers to run between Hongkong and Foochow, calling at Swatow and Amoy. The Company having a special subsidy for this

line from the Japanese Government establishes a somewhat formidable opposition to the old Douglas Company and lower rates of freight and passage money may be looked for.

There was quite a crowd of Mr. William Graham's friends at Ewo Jetty yesterday morning to shake hands and tender their wishes to him on his departure for home on a well earned holiday. We wish Mr. Graham god-speed, and a safe return to us early in May with Mrs. Graham, when a warm welcome back will await him.

Several accounts have reached us of the dollar robbery on the river on Monday last, the most authentic of which, in spite of the crew's trumped up stories to the contrary, does not include any bold pirate business. A native bank was shipping off \$17,000 to Shanghai by the *Hain Ya* and put them on board a native cargo boat at Foochow for conveyance to the steamer laying at Pagoda. The boat returned to Foochow on Tuesday morning without the treasure or mate's receipt for it, but with a dreadful story of how it had been attacked by desperate river pirates, the lives of the crew threatened and all the treasure taken. The detectives were quickly set to work and three men, known to be poor, were arrested in their houses with several hundreds of dollars in their possession. This, it is thought, may eventually lead to the discovery of the whole gang of thieves and the recovery of a good deal of the treasure. We shall have further particulars next week. In the meantime, there is reason to believe that the gang consisted simply of the coolies who carried the treasure from the bank to the boat and the crew of the boat; rather an amateur lot for such a big undertaking.

HONGKONG.

Only one plague case and one death from plague have occurred since our issue of last week.

The master of the licensed junk No. 325, and a seaman belonging to the same boat, had been engaged to carry rice for a rice-dealer in Hongkong. They carried between 1,000 and 2,000 bags all right. They then thought it was time to appropriate some. They accordingly purloined 140 catties. The theft was found out, with the result that they appeared before Mr. Hazeland on Thursday, and were each sentenced to three months' hard labour.

A broker living at 51, East Street, told Mr. Hazeland on Thursday that when walking along Square Street the man who was in the dock came up to him and struck him, causing him to become giddy. At the same time he was kicked from behind and his money, \$2.03, was taken away. He chased the defendant, who was stopped by a constable. For the theft the man was sentenced to six weeks' hard labour, a similar sentence being imposed for the assault.

For stealing a pair of vases and a stand, the property of Mr. W. Shewan, of Upper Richmond Road, a cook named Leung Lam was on Thursday sent to prison for a month. An Indian police sergeant saw the defendant in Lower Richmond Road on Wednesday afternoon with the vases in his possession. When questioned he said his master, Mr. Shewan, had given them to him. The sergeant accompanied him to the house for the purpose of testing the truth of his story. He found that the man was not known there, and he was accordingly locked up.—The defendant said: These vases were given to me by a chair coolie whom I am unable to point out.

At one a.m. on the 25th instant P.C. Abley was on duty in Third Street, Yaumati, when he met a Chinaman. This being an unearthly hour for even a Chinaman to be meandering about he searched him and found an iron vice in his possession. The man said he had got the vice from the *Memuir*, but on the vice being shown to the engineer of the latter vessel it transpired that there was not a vice like it on board. When charged at the Magistracy later in the day for being in unlawful possession, the defendant said: I was asked to board the steamer and I found this vice among some rubbish.—This excuse availed him nothing; he was fined \$10, or 14 days.—For being in unlawful possession of a chain Cheng Yau was fined \$25, or a month. Sergeant Gourlay found the chain on the defendant's person in his house and no satisfactory explanation was forthcoming.

A district watchman named Fung Kwo was on the 22nd inst. sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment for assaulting Chinese constable 163, Tang I, when in the execution of his duty. It seems that the constable, who was in plain clothes, had two gamblers in his custody when the defendant came up and said: "These two are my friends, don't arrest them, if you do I'll arrest you!" The constable replied that he would not let them off, upon which the defendant struck him.

A tea-house keeper from Manila named Chan Wong was walking along the Praya on the 16th instant with his wife, a Filipino, when two men suddenly brushed against him. One of them caught hold of his hand, while the other snatched a bag which he was carrying and both then ran away. The bag contained 13 silver dollars, five dollars in small change, and a draft for \$25. The thief was chased by the owner of the money and his wife, and stopped by a Chinese constable. The thief, who had been previously convicted, was sentenced to six weeks' hard labour.

Mathew Mass, a man employed on the U. S. S. *Monterey*, appeared before Mr. Hazeland on the 19th inst. charged with fighting. He assaulted an Indian watchman at Hunghom Dock. A fight ensued, some other Indians joining in. The defendant seems to have got the worst of the bargain, his eyes having evidently been severely battered. He was drunk at the time, and His Worship observed that he thought the police ought to send a protest against the Hunghom Hotel, which he considered was too near the Dock.

At about half-past six on the 19th inst. P.C. Winter was going down Connaught Road and when opposite Commissariat Building saw a couple of coolies engaged in a heated argument with some other coolies. On someone calling out "Sergeant" they went away. The constable went on towards the Cricket Ground, and while there heard a great noise. The coolies had got together again and had resumed their argument. Going towards them he saw that the couple had come to blows. He took them both into custody. When before Mr. Hazeland on the 19th inst. one of the men said: The second defendant was hitting a small boy and I went and separated them.—The second defendant said: I was walking along; I did not fight.—They were each fined \$3, or 14 days, and bound over to keep the peace.

A very enjoyable evening was spent at the Sailors' and Soldiers' Institute, Kowloon, on the 23rd inst. An excellent programme was provided by the Naval men from the Torpedo Depot, and though it was somewhat marred by the non-arrival of the pianist, the "Tars" rose to the occasion, as they always do, and the frequent and hearty applause of a full audience testified to the success of their efforts to entertain. Songs were sung by Messrs Robb, Pitt, Jardine, Ward, Wanless and Wallace, Mr. Robb singing "Ora pro Nobis" with great taste and feeling. The comic element was furnished by Messrs. Mahoney and Pike, who kept the audience in roars of laughter, and Mr. Bray gave a magnificent exhibition of dancing. We hear that further concerts are to be given by the depot during the winter, and feel sure that they will attract large audiences.

A kareen was placed in the dock at the Magistracy on the 20th inst. charged before Mr. Hazeland with being in possession of a number of tals of prepared opium. He gave his name as Li Cheung Shui, of 136, Des Voeux Road, and said he was a merchant of repute who had been in business for some years. He denied the charge, and said the opium was not his property, for it had been "placed" where it had been found in order to get him into trouble. Excise officer Wong Luk, No. 57, supported the charge, and in answer to His Worship said he did not know the name of the informer, although he had seen him once or twice before the present prosecution. His Worship: Where does he live?—Witness: I don't know. His Worship: Now, tell me what percentage does the Opium Farmer give you for a find? The witness not answering for a second or two. His Worship: Does he not pay you ten per cent.?—Witness: Yes. His Worship: Then why don't you say so; you know there's a recognised fee. The accused said he had a kareen friend who could give evidence on his behalf, and His Worship adjourned the further hearing allowing bail in \$100.

On the 22nd inst. Inspector Baker and a party of police visited house No. 68, First Street, and found there 17 people playing at *Pai-kau* in a room on the third floor. The police arrested six, including the two keepers of the house, and on the 23rd inst. they were all mulcted in the usual penalty.

At the Harbour Office on the 23rd instant before the Hon. Basil Taylor (Acting Harbour Master), Yee See, No. 1 fireman on the British steamship *Peluse*, pleaded guilty to having on the 22nd inst., at Victoria Harbour, absented himself from work without leave, and was sentenced to 14 days' hard labour.

In connection, no doubt, with the approaching Shanghai Autumn Race Meeting on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prox., many of our prominent fellow-citizens are going to Shanghai. In the list of passengers by the *Empress of China* we notice the names of Messrs. C. P. Chater, P. A. Cox, J. H. Lewis, E. W. Mitchell, and Dr. G. P. Jordan.

At the Magistracy on the 24th inst. three seamen connected with junk No. 163 were charged on the information of Sergeant MacDonald, with cutting earth from Crown Land at Yaumati without a permit from the Director of Public Works. From the evidence adduced it transpired that one of the defendants had employed the other two to cut the earth; and he was fined \$50, his companions being discharged. For removing stone from Crown Land at Yaumati, a contractor was fined \$100.

At about half-past 11 on the 22nd inst. Sergeant MacSwayed and Inspector McEwen were standing near the Cricket Ground in Queen's Road when a soldier came by on a bicycle without a light. Sergeant MacSwayed called out to him to stop, but this he declined to do, making a noise with his mouth and going ahead. This annoyed the Police Sergeant, who called out to an imaginary constable in front "Throw him down." In consequence the bicyclist turned round by the City Hall, where he was caught, and found to be Sergeant Babage, of the Royal Engineers. He was summoned and on the 24th inst. fined for his offence.

A Chinaman was on the 24th inst. charged with assaulting an Indian constable when in the execution of his duty at Yaumati on the 22nd inst. The constable said he had arrested a woman who was carrying pigwash when the defendant came up and struck him with a pole. A crowd also gathered round and called out "Ta." The constable had no witnesses.—The defendant's story was that the constable asked him to carry some pigwash and because he refused to do so, saying he was not a coolie, the constable struck him with his truncheon and arrested him.—His Worship did not consider there was sufficient evidence to convict and discharged the defendant.

A Chinese fitter stood in front of Mr. Hazeland on the 20th inst. at the instance of Mr. Reid, the head watchman at Hunghom Dock, charged with stealing portion of a spindle which had been sent to the works by the Chief Engineer of the U.S.S. *Monterey* to be repaired, and part of which, in its turn, had been handed to the accused to work upon in the ordinary course of business. The charge was formally proved by Mr. Reid and other witnesses, and in sentencing the prisoner to two months' hard labour, His Worship remarked that there was no doubt a considerable amount of pilfering going on at the Dock, and he hoped the punishment awarded would have a deterrent effect upon others.

It seemed strange, and caused quite a little titter in court among those who observed it. Without waiting for the well-known words, "The evidence you shall give, &c.," a Chinese witness stepped into the box at the Magistracy on Saturday, immediately took the Bible in his left hand, kissed it rather rapturously and replaced it. He had undoubtedly done this before he was seen by the court usher, for no other questions were asked, and that official administered the form of oath taken by Chinamen in the courts of law of the Colony, which the witness repeated without the slightest concern. He evidently thought, as he stood by the door of the court watching a European giving evidence a few moments before he was called, that the kissing of the Book was a portion of the Court's rite to be performed by Christian and heathen alike, for (as was afterwards gathered) he himself had no pretensions towards the former faith.

Captain Superintendent May returned to the New Territory on the 21st inst.

On the 21st inst. a private in the Madras Light Infantry was bathing at Lau Foo, just below the British camp near Samchun, when he got out of his depth and was drowned.

The return of visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum last week shows that 531 non-Chinese and 195 Chinese visited the former institution, 205 non-Chinese and 2,153 Chinese the latter.

For possession of two swords without a permit a Chinaman was fined \$10, and for 100 rounds of revolver ammunition without a permit another Chinaman was fined \$250, or three months.

When on the *Doric* the other day a lukong saw a Chinaman secrete some canvas in a coil of rope, which he covered up. When arrested he was not at a loss for an excuse; he said a small boy had given it to him. He was on the 22nd inst. sentenced to one month's hard labour.

A commotion was caused on board the U.S. monitor *Monterey* on the 21st inst. by a fire which broke out in the electric-light room. Five of the crew who were down below narrowly escaped being suffocated. Some dock employees and the ship's crew soon extinguished the flames. The cause of the fire and the damage have not yet been ascertained.

The coolies at Kowloon who have been working discharging lighters at the wharves now demand a cent for every two baskets of material they convey from the lighter to the dumping ground. This is about 300 per cent. more than they have been receiving, and as the builders have refused them the increase, the coolies intimated their intention to strike work on the 23rd inst.

Some girls employed as cigarette workers were returning from work on the 20th inst., and when in Second Street a man named Un Chun caused a great crowd to follow them by calling them objectionable names. He called a girl named Chan Fun a dirty pig, and when she asked him not to abuse her slapped her in the face. He also abused another girl. Fortunately an Indian constable saw what took place and marched the loafer up to the police station. On the 23rd inst. the man was fined \$10, or 14 days, for assault, and \$5, or 14 days, for making use of abusive language.

For behaving in the disorderly manner in an opium seller's shop at 429, Queen's Road West, and damaging a watch, a Chinawoman was on the 23rd inst. fined \$5, or 14 days. It seems that on the 22nd inst. she returned to the shop with some opium which she had bought the previous day. She said it was not enough. There were two kerosene lamps in the room and she was stamping on the counter. He told her to go away, whereupon she caught hold of his jacket and caused his watch to fall to the ground and break. She then wanted to run away, but he would not let her.

The Returns of Deaths for last month show that of a grand total of 469, the European and Foreign community claimed 26 deaths—16 among the civil population, 8 in the Army, and 2 in the Navy. The Chinese community lost 443, 104 of the deaths being in No. 2 District, and 43 in No. 3. Plague only occasioned 13 deaths, while chest affections accounted for 91, 6 in the European and foreign community. The rates in the principal registration districts were:—British and Foreign civil community 21 per 1,000 per annum; Chinese community, Victoria, Land 20.9, Harbour 24.3; Chinese community, whole Colony, Land 20.9, Boat 24.3, Land and Boat 21.4; British, Foreign, and Chinese, excluding Army and Navy, 21.4.

Mr. Hazeland had before him on the 20th inst. a Chinaman named Lau Chun Samow, a boat-builder, against whom, it was alleged, he had had in his possession eight mace of prepared opium contrary to the law. He gave an oft-told defence that the drug was put under his table by the officers who were supposed to have "discovered" it, and the charge had been bolstered up by false statements. Constable Wilson proved the execution of the search warrant, and stated that when he entered the room he at once saw the opium under the table, so that it was impossible for the excise officers or any one else with him to have "placed" it there. His worship disbelieved the plea set up, and sentenced the accused to pay a fine of \$10, or suffer 14 days' imprisonment.

We regret to have to record the death at the Government Civil Hospital on the 20th inst., at 4.45 a.m., of Mr. J. B. Plinston, late of the Deep Water Bay Works. The funeral took place the same afternoon.

In the *Gazette* the following additions to the register of qualified medical and surgical practitioners in the colony are notified:—Robert Lamort, French Consulate; Carl Georg Johann Rohrmann, Caine Road.

Inspector Ford with a party of police executed a gambling warrant at No. 23, Cross Street, on the 21st inst. and arrested 11 men there. They were taken before Mr. Hazeland on the 23rd inst. Two of them were fined \$15 each for keeping a common gaming-house, and the rest \$3 each, or 14 days, for gambling.

On the 23rd inst. Sergeant Terret visited a steamer which was about to start for Au Hoi and Namtau. He found among the passengers a woman who had a couple of buckets in her possession apparently containing rice. Under the rice, however, he found 100 boxes of percussion caps. She was taken to the Police Station and fined \$100.

A good deal of copper belonging to the Naval Authorities has been stolen recently, but on Saturday evening last quite a number of thieves who have a penchant for cheap copper were captured and dealt with by Mr. Hazeland on the 22nd inst. It appears that at about half-past seven Indian constable No. 39 was on duty in the Naval Yard when he saw three men in the nullah adjoining. He blew his whistle and an Indian sergeant came up and caught one of the men, the two others escaping. The man who was arrested had a sheet of copper under his arms. The sergeant took him to the lock-up, and suspecting that there were other thieves about told him to hide close to the nullah. He did so. On the sergeant returning he flashed his light among some bushes, and five Chinamen were discovered crouching down with a bundle of copper sheets beside them. Just then Indian constable No. 40 came up and he and the sergeant arrested them. Subsequently Indian constable No. 39 arrested another man as he was getting out of the nullah. Nothing, however, was found upon him, and he was discharged. The others were sentenced to six weeks' hard labour.

Sergeant Ritchie and Constable Hudson of the Wanchai station made a rather smart capture on the 19th inst. resulting in the conviction of two coal thieves, and a magisterial warning, which it is hoped will have the effect of stopping altogether the continual thefts of coal from junks and other small craft in the harbour. From the evidence tendered by the police officers to the magistrate, before whom the accused, Kam'Choi and Chan'Sang, were brought on the 20th inst., it appeared that the sergeant espied two men in a coal boat rowing hastily towards some coal junks anchored out in the harbour. Two other boats were making for the same spot, and he (the sergeant) engaged a sampan and put off in pursuit, leaving the constable on the bank to watch for any landing. Of course directly the officers were perceived, the Chinamen used every means in their power to escape, but while two of the boats managed to outrow the pursuing one, the third was being gradually overtaken, when it made for the shore. There they were seen by the constable who arrested them after a smart chase, and by a plucky and determined grip of both queues. When brought back to the boat, which they had left unmoored, it was found to contain about half a ton of Japanese coal. The prisoners, in their defence, said it was a false charge. They were walking along the street when they were arrested. They had been engaged to row the boat for ten cents an hour, and that was all the connection they had with it. His Worship stated he had a strong suspicion that the coal was stolen property, and it was for them to account to him for their possession of it. If they did not they were chargeable with "unlawful possession." The prisoners made no answer, and His Worship said he was once in hopes of putting down these thefts, and thought he had done so, but he saw they were starting again. They certainly had stopped for a short time. He (Mr. Hazeland) supposed it was a very profitable business to the prisoners, and therefore they were prepared to run some risk. They would be fined \$100 or undergo two months' hard labour.

An alarm of fire was raised on the 23rd inst., it being reported that a house in Staunton Street was ablaze. The Fire Brigade turned out and found some tar and baskets in the basement of a house to be on fire. The flames were extinguished before much damage was done.

On the 21st inst. a German sailor named John Herman went to the Sailors' Home at West Point a little worse for liquor. When in the dormitory he began to argue with another sailor named Charles Loheit, with whom he had been going about. Not being very proficient in English he was coming off second best in the wordy war when he clinched matters by striking the other man in the face. For this he was taken before Mr. Hazeland on the 23rd inst. and fined \$5 and also bound over to keep the peace.

A series of experiments in diving is being tried at the Naval Extension Works with a view of making the diver more comfortable when under water, and rendering his work much easier, while the lowest possible danger of accident is minimised. The lower part of the dress is dispensed with altogether, and the diver descends with simply the head-covering strapped securely round the shoulders and waist, leaving the arms at liberty to use any tool or instrument at will, and the feet to walk the bottom surface with as much ease as if on dry land.

A correspondent writes:—"I left Peddar's Wharf at 12.45 p.m., and arrived at the wharf opposite to where the s.s. *Hue* was lying at 1 o'clock. I tried for over half an hour to get a sampan but could not get one, although there were several there. At last I got one, the owner of which could speak a little English. He demanded two dollars; I offered him one dollar, which he agreed to accept after losing another 15 minutes; but had to pay him on the wharf before my boxes were put aboard. We then left the wharf, and had gone about half way to the steamer when she sailed (about 1.50 p.m.). Of course I had to turn back."

At about seven o'clock on the 23rd inst. a number of coolies were engaged in carrying cargo on to a steamer which was moored alongside Jardine's Wharf at West Point. One of them placed a plank against the steamer, but as he had not done this properly another coolie who was walking along the plank with a load had a nasty fall on to the wharf in consequence of the plank slipping. Feeling annoyed he began to abuse the other coolie. From words they came to blows. Other coolies joined in the fight, and a serious row would have ensued had not an Indian constable appeared on the scene and arrested three of the offenders, each of whom was fined \$3 at the Magistracy on the 24th inst.

The Annual Installation of the officers of Chapter St. Andrew, 218, S. C., came off on the 23rd inst., the Installing Part Principal being Ex. Comp. Kinghorn, who was assisted by Ex. Comp. O'Gourdin and McIsaacs. The following were installed for the ensuing year: P. Z., Ex. Comp. J. Lockhead, H., Ex. Comp. H. B. Bridger, J., Ex. Comp. W. Muskett, Scribe E. Ex. Comp. W. M. Everall, Scribe N., Ex. Comp. H. Jewitt, Treas., Comp. C. Lasbirel, P. S., Comp. J. A. Tarrant, 1st Assist. S., Comp. H. E. Allen, 2nd Assist. S., Comp. S. Parfitt, Chancellor, Comp. F. Allen, I. G., Comp. J. E. Lee, Janitor, Comp. B. Jones. After the Installation, the Companions sat down to a very enjoyable supper, which was enlivened by speeches and songs.—Contributed.

Harvest Thanksgiving Services were held on the 21st inst. at St. Peter's Seamen's Church, and though some of the most distinctive features of such services at home were lacking, they were of a most hearty and inspiring character. Under the skilful hands of the ladies the plentiful supplies of flowers, fruit, and vegetables kindly contributed by members of the congregation, had been on the previous day arranged in a series of beautiful decorations, and the general appearance of the church was bright and pleasing. At the morning service the Lord Bishop of the diocese preached to a crowded congregation, taking as his text St. Luke, xii., 21. The sermon in the evening was preached by the chaplain. The well known harvest hymns were sung with great heartiness and the services were thoroughly congregational. The offertories, which were for the general purposes of the Mission, were good.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Early on the 19th inst. a Chinaman was found lying down in Nullah Lane with a severe cut on his head. It is supposed that he was endeavouring to get into a house close by and fell.

The October number of the Hongkong Church Missionary Association's *From Month to Month* reports that, owing to the unsettled state of Canton, the Training School for Native Agents has been removed temporarily to Hongkong. The students are allowed by the Bishop the use of the Chapel and one of the Class Rooms at St. Paul's College.

Otto Spoalberg pleaded guilty before Mr. Hazeland on the 20th inst. at the Magistracy of being drunk and incapable in the Queen's Road early that morning. Fined \$2, or eight days. Sergeant McSwayed arrested another "drunk"—this time a Sikh—for "being under the influence" in Lyndhurst Terrace on Friday. He received the same punishment.

In consequence of pressure of business in Mr. Hazeland's Court, Mr. Halifax heard a number of sanitary prosecutions, and punished the offenders who were prosecuted by the Sanitary Board's Inspector (Mr. Brett). For various breaches of the Ordinance referring to cock-lofts eleven persons were fined \$10 each, and four other property-owners were each mulcted in a similar amount for neglecting to provide backyards to their premises.

Lo Sum, an attendant at the Wellington Barracks, was brought up in custody charged by Corporal Tuohy, R.A.M.C., with the theft of a bottle of kerosene oil from the Medical Officer's Room on the previous evening. He pleaded not guilty, and the Corporal said that when arrested the prisoner stated he was Capt. Bewley's "boy," although he subsequently denied it. Mr. Halifax sentenced the accused to 14 days with hard labour.

Nine men employed at the Naval Yard appeared before Mr. Hazeland on the 19th inst. charged with fighting and creating a disturbance in Wing Fing Street, Wanchai. Two Chinese constables found between 30 and 40 men fighting. They arrested the defendants, who were each fined \$5, and bound over for 12 months. When asked what he had to say one of the defendants said: "Yesterday I was set upon by a number of men and beaten."

On the 22nd instant a party of excise officers, accompanied by a European constable, boarded the French mail steamer *Laos*, which was on her way home. In the servants' quarters they found 59 skins and 13 tins, containing 960 taels of prepared opium. They arrested two servants who appeared to be in charge of the opium, but Captain Flandin refused to allow the officers to take their prisoners off the ship, though a Magistrate's warrant was produced. He, however, did not object to let the opium come ashore. Further action will be taken in the matter.

At the Magistracy on the 23rd inst. William Boog, a seaman out of employ, was charged with attempting to commit suicide. A Chinese seaman who lives in the same boarding house as the defendant said that at 1.30 p.m. on the 15th inst. he returned to his room and found the defendant with the end of a rope in his hand, the other end being tied to a hook. The end in the man's hand was in a noose and he was just about to put it round his neck, but the Chinaman prevented him from doing so. On the man being examined by Dr. Thomson he was found to be of sound mind, but of weak intelligence. Under the circumstances he was cautioned and discharged.

The steam-launch *Wai Hoi* left the harbour at about six o'clock on the 21st inst. towing the *Yee Yak* lorcha, the latter being laden with \$10,000 worth of kerosene oil, coal, and iron, which was owned by Chinese merchants and was being conveyed to Wuchow. When near Lintin Island on the Canton River a heavy squall came on and the lorcha began to ship water, things ultimately beginning to look so serious that the kerosene oil was thrown overboard. The launch dropped the tow. An attempt was made to pick it up, but the rope broke, and as it was getting dark the launch took on board the 15 hands who were on the lorcha, abandoned her, and put in at Lintin. At daylight the following morning the launch went out to search for the lorcha, but was unable to find her, and it is feared that she and her cargo are lost.

A recent Army Order, says an Indian telegram, makes it plain that a soldier when taken prisoner of war forfeits pay only when proved before a court of enquiry to have been to blame in the matter.

The Kobe Cricket Week commenced last Monday with the match Kobe v. Yokohama. Yokohama went in first and made 125, to which Kobe replied with 111. Yokohama closed their second innings at 175 for nine wickets. Kobe made 98 for three wickets, and the match was left drawn.

It is reported that the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, for the further extension of its business, has decided to construct six more ocean steamers, each having a tonnage of 6,000. It is not yet known whether these steamers will be constructed at home or abroad, but it is conjectured that three or four of them will be ordered from England.

Sanitary inspection was enforced at Nagasaki from the 9th inst. against vessels arriving there from Chinese ports, with animals, hides, skins, or bones on board, or any other article likely to assist in spreading cattle disease. No such cargo as mentioned above is allowed to be discharged without being inspected by the sanitary officials.

The Railway Conference which has been held at Simla met for the last time on Monday, the 1st inst., when proposals from Messrs. Thomas Cook and Sons were considered, whereby this firm would be enabled to issue tickets for circular tours in India over one thousand miles long, without restriction, at ten per cent reduction, half of which to go to the passenger. It was resolved to ask Messrs. Cook and Sons to draw up a detailed list of tours for further consideration.

Arrangements, says a Moscow correspondent quoted in the *L. and C. Express*, are being made to go back to the system of ten years ago to get goods conveyed to Siberia. The railway is useless, being completely blocked by military trains. The rivers are in the same condition, the steamers having no space to spare for ordinary merchandise. At the same time, the scarcity of many of the first necessities of life over a great part of Siberia this year, heightened as it is by the influx of large numbers of troops who depend on the country for their supplies, makes it a matter of extreme consequence to the trader to get his stocks up to so good a market. Neither rail nor river steam-service being available, Moscow merchants are preparing to despatch caravans of goods in the good old way by horses.

"Nemo" in the course of a letter to the *N.-C. Daily News* says:—The whole Post Office system of China requires remodelling, including that certainly of Shanghai itself, and it is surprising that no scheme has yet been drawn up by business men enumerating the various reforms, needed by them as business men in the reconstruction of a new China. Sir Ernest Satow's visit to Shanghai would not have been an unsuitable moment for Englishmen to express their wants in full. Germans have had a similar opportunity and Frenchmen may yet have the like. These nations, however, generally work through their officials, who think for them. Englishmen in England are not generally in favour of this method. It may, however, be inevitable to fall into it in the East, where Shanghai itself may be said to be ruled by a triumvirate.

A Japanese diver, reports the *Nagasaki Press*, went down three times to the wreck of the *Calanda* on the 2nd inst., and on each occasion managed to reach the bridge of the sunken vessel. He reports that she is lying in about 28 fathoms of water. He was unable to stay below for a longer period than five minutes, owing to the great pressure of water, and to there being a flaw above water in the airpipe of his dress. He does not believe there are any bodies in the vessel and thinks they have been carried out to sea. This opinion is based on the absence of fish in the neighbourhood of the sunken vessel. The diver is engaged by firms interested in the cargo. He has been promised ¥1,000 should he succeed in recovering the specie deposited on board by the local office of the Russo-Chinese Bank, and a further reward for finding the mail box belonging to Messrs. Ginsburg & Co.

The Bishop of Macao, who has been inspecting the Portuguese Mission at Singapore and Malacca, accompanied by Fathers Goncalves and De Sousa, was among the passengers by the French mail steamer *Tonkin*, on his way to Macao.

Latest information from Newchwang is that there are plenty of beans and produce up country, but owing to the numerous bands of brigands roving about, the boatmen are afraid to leave the villages without armed escorts, which are not allowed by the authorities.

Mr. L. K. Fraser, who went to Bangkok from Burmah some time since, died rather suddenly on the 5th inst. He had been in Bangkok for at least twelve months and had been in hospital suffering from chronic dysentery. He was however at the British Legation a few hours before his death, so that the end came quite unexpectedly. Mr. Fraser once held a good position in Burmah.

Le Yacht states that the Chinese t.b.d. *Haiting*, which fell to the share of France at Taku, has been renamed *Takou*. She was built by Schichau, of Elbing, in 1898. Her length is 193 ft.; beam, 21 ft.; displacement 250 tons; engines, Schichau type, 6,000 h.p. Her speed on her trials with 25 tons of coal in her bunkers was 35.2 knots, and with a full load 33.6 knots, or 30 to 31 knots with natural draught, and a supply of coal and water sufficient for a run of 5,000 miles. Admiral Courrejolles has put her in charge of two officers and 32 men.

Further details are now to hand of the robbing of the Chinese lorcha off Gutzlaff, of which we have already had news by telegraph. The *N.-C. Daily News* learns that on Friday morning, the 12th inst., the Chinese lorcha *Chin Pao An*, bound from Hankow to Ningpo with a general cargo, was boarded by pirates off Gutzlaff. Not finding anything of value among the cargo, the pirates captured the laodah and supercargo of the lorcha and demanded the sum of \$6,000 as a ransom. The lorcha arrived at her destination on Saturday, the 13th inst. The owner left for Ningpo and the matter has already been reported to the Ningpo Taotai.

Owing to the confusion aggravated in the Auditor's office by the ambiguous state of the disbursement accounts of the sundry Captains of the Port and Collectors of Customs in the islands, says a Manila paper, a bill will be introduced at next Wednesday's (24th inst.) session of the Philippine Commission providing for the abolishment of the office of the Captain of the Port at every port in the Philippine Islands, except Manila, and transferring the duties of the office of Captain of the Port to the Collector of Customs. In most of the islands' ports the office of Captain of the Port and Collector of Customs has been filled by one officer. The duties are not so arduous as to prevent an officer performing the duties of both offices. In rendering the accounts of the Captain of the Port and Collector of Customs many officers, holding the dual appointment, have not thoroughly understood where they were at, and rendered their accounts unintentionally mixed, adds the paper. As a natural sequence the Commission have considered it advisable to amalgamate the two offices, thereby relieving the overworked auditor and coercing matters military generally.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENT.

	1900-1 lbs.	1899-00 lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai...	—	—
Amoy	320,674	221,484
Foochow	9,587,610	9,491,174
Canton	—	—
	9,908,284	9,712,658

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1899-1900 lbs.	1898-99 lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow...	24,873,042	25,448,007

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO
UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1900-1	1899-00
Shanghai	11,579,083	8,339,541
Amoy	6,608,034	2,643,067
Foochow	18,188,317	10,982,608

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED
STATES AND CANADA.

	1900-1	1899-00
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama	20,258,003	20,555,065
Kobe	10,593,708	11,782,517
	30,851,709	32,337,582

SILK.

CANTON, 13th October.—Silk.—Tsatlees.—No settlements have been reported. Re-reels.—About 100 bales of Nos 1, 2 and 3 Re-reels Grant have been settled at \$550 and \$540 average. Supplies are coming in very slowly, and dealers are holding back. Filatures.—The market continued dull with irregular prices during the first part of the fortnight, when a sudden demand sprang up for Lyons. All the refusals given previously by the Chinamen were taken up, and about 1,500 to 2,000 bales were settled in 2 to 3 days. Prices advanced \$30 to \$50 per picul and it is very difficult to find sellers. From prices paid we quote: \$740 for Kwong Shun Cheong and Kwong Shun Hang 11/13, \$730 for Hau King Sing, \$725 for Yee Wo Loong, Cheon Kee, Sing King Cheong, Wing King Lun and Wing Wo Lun 9/11 and Kwong Shun Cheong 13/15, \$720 for Kwong Ho 11/13, Kwong King Wo, Kwong Pon Kee and Hip Sam Choy 10/12, \$710 for Kwong Wo Hing 11/13 and Kwong Ho 13/15, \$700 for Chung Sun Hang 10/12, \$690 for Chung Sun Hang and Kum King—Cheong, Shun Kee, Yu King Lun and Yu Wo Cheong 11/13 and Kwong Wo Hing 13/15, \$685 for Hip Po Cheong 11/13 and Miu King Lun 11/13, 3rd crop Silk, \$680 for Kwong Lun On 10/12, Sai Sill Lun 11/13 and Wing Ching Cheong 12/14, \$670 for Shun Kee 12/14, \$650 for King Shing's Gold Lion 13/15 and Kum Lun, Tai 16/22, \$645 for Yee Wo Loong 13/18, \$640 for How King Cheong 13/15, Wai King Wo 13/22, \$620 for Tai King Lun 13/22, and Yee Lun Cheong 20/24, \$600 for Yu Ye Lun 24/28, \$595 for Soey Wo Cheong, Yee Wo Lun and Quan Hing 11/13, \$590 for Koun King 20/24, 24/28 and 26/30, \$580 for Kow Kee and King Yuen 11/13. Short-reels.—A fair business has been done for America in Short-reels I A. and II A., \$675 have been paid for Hau King Lun, Kwong Wo Tai, Wing Ching Cheong and Yu King 14/16, \$670 for Kwong Wo Hing 14/16, \$630 for Kwai Hing Lun 14/16. Waste.—Extra-Extra Steam Waste advanced about \$10 per picul, buying being confined to one or two firms. We append quotations in Canton, with laying down cost in London and Lyons, Exchange 4 months' sight, 2/1½, and Fcs. 2.66 per Dollar.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND
JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1900-1901	1899-00
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	22,066	45,176
Canton	—	—
Yokohama	4,289	10,150
	26,355	55,326

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN
TO AMERICA.

	1900-1901	1899-00
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	3,518	5,519
Canton	—	—
Yokohama	5,850	10,799
	9,368	16,318

CAMPOR.

HONGKONG, 26th October.—Still no fresh supplies having come forward, there have been no sales, and the prices are consequently unknown. No sales.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 26th October.—The upward tendency continues, more demands having come forward. Quotations are:—
Shekloong, No. 1, White.....\$7.87 to \$7.93 per
do. 2, White.....7.05 to 7.10
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown... 5.25 to 5.30
do. 2, Brown... 5.15 to 5.20
Swatow, No. 1, White.....7.93 to 7.97
do. 1, White.....7.05 to 7.10
Swatow, No. 1, Brown... 5.25 to 5.30
do. 2, Brown... 5.05 to 5.10
Fookchow Sugar Candy.....11.30 to 11.35
Shekloong.....10.25 to 10.30

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 26th October.—Malwa—Is quiet and prices are New at \$790/\$80, Old at \$840/\$900. Bengal.—There was a spurt soon after the departure of the last mail and prices hardened to \$985 and \$967½ respectively, but at these figures only a limited number of chests changed hands. Subsequently market ruled very dull. We close with a weak market, Patna nominally quoted at \$960 and Benares at \$950. Persian—No change to report, best quality is quoted at \$860/\$870.

STOCK.

Patna.....	1,234
Benares.....	313
Malwa.....	1,460
Persian.....	2,243½

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 26th October.—Very depressed market. Stock, about 2,000 bales.

Bombay,	21.00 to 21.50 picul
Bengal (New), Rangoon, } and Dacca,	21.00 to 23.00 "
Shanghai and Japanese, ..	22.00 to 23.00 "
Tungchow and Ningpo,.....	22.00 to 23.00 "

Sales: about 2,000 bales.

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee says in his Report, dated Hongkong, 26th October.—The demand from the country having fallen away considerably, importers have experienced less enquiry, and to move off goods as they arrive, have submitted to a decline of one to three dollars per bale. The willingness of holders to meet buyers, however, has not led to any increase of business, as without an outlet dealers refrain from committing themselves, and being fairly well supplied with all grades of Twist from their late heavy contracts can afford to wait further developments. Sixteens are entirely out of request; No. 10s. continue to attract by far the largest amount of attention and form three-fourth of the settlements. The market closes quiet and depressed.

Local Manufacture.—No business has been reported in the productions of the Hongkong S. W. and Dyeing Mills.

Japanese Yarn.—Notwithstanding a further concession in rates of \$1 to \$3 per bale, this thread has continued quiet. Only a small business has been put through in No. 20s., say 100 bales Settsu at \$99, 100 bales Kanegafuchi and 100 bales Ashai at \$97.

Raw Cotton.—Indian descriptions are quiet, the comparative cheapness of new Shanghai and Ningpo attracting the attention of buyers entirely to Chinese Cotton, and with the exception of about 400 bales superfine machine-ginned Bengal purchased at \$24 by the local Mill, no business is reported amongst the natives. Unsold stock about 1,700 bales. Chinese Cotton continues in good request, and sales of about 1,500 bales at from \$22 to \$22½ have transpired. Stock about 500 bales.

Exchange on India has continued to advance, and closes strong to-day at Rs. 158½ for T/T and Rs. 159 for Post. On Shanghai 71½, and on Yokohama 3½ per cent discount.

From Shanghai the undernoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported during fortnight ending 21st inst., viz:—

India.—Total sales 2,442 bales, comprising 1,219 bales No. 10s., 20 bales No. 12s., 476 bales No. 16s. and 736 bales No. 20s., prices showing a decline of half to one Tacl, and market closing weak. Estimated unsold stock about 30,000 bales.

Japanese.—Total sales 1,200 bales at unchanged rates, say Tls. 70½ to 72½ for No. 16s. and Tls. 72½ to 74½ for No. 20s. stocks nil.

Local.—Total sales 2,500 bales on the basis of Tls. 60 to 64 for No. 10s., Tls. 63 to 66 for No. 12s., Tls. 64 to 68 for No. 14s., and Tls. 68 to 70 for No. 16s., market closing steady:—

RICE.

HONGKONG, 26th October.—The downward tendency continues, the market being dull. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.80 to 2.85
Round, Good quality	2.95 to 3.00
Long	3.15 to 3.20
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2 ..	2.90 to 2.95
Garden, No. 1	3.25 to 3.30
White	3.95 to 4.00
Fine Cargo	4.15 to 4.20

COALS.

HONGKONG, 26th October.—Small sales of Japanese at quotation:—

Cardiff.....	\$35.00 sellers
Australian \$14.00 to \$14.50 ex godown, nominal	
Yubari Lump.....	\$11.00 ex godown, nominal
Miki Lump	8.50 to 9.00 nominal
Moji Lump	\$7.00 to \$9.50 ex ship, steady
Hongay double } screened	10.50 ex godown
Hongay Lump.....	8.50 ex ship
Hongay Dust.....	5.50 "
Briquettes.....	14.50 ex godown

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 26th October.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—Bombay Yarn: 100 bales No. 8 at \$84, 950 bales No. 10 at \$84, to \$94, 600 bales No. 12 at \$89 to \$94, 400 bales No. 16 at \$95 to \$102, 1,000 bales No. 20 at \$94.50 to \$99. Drill: 150 prices 14 lbs. Buffalo at \$4.50. Scarlet Long Ells: 125 prices 8 lbs. Stag at \$6.90. Assorted Spanish Stripes: 240 prices BBB at \$4.75. 36 Mexicans: 1,200 pieces Hunter Stag at \$3.40.

METALS.—Lead: 420 piculs new mark at \$10.15, 840 piculs new mark at \$10.25, 1,800 piculs at \$10.20. Yellow Metal: 10 cases 14/20 oz. sheathings at \$40, 40 cases 10/14 at \$44, 30 cases at \$40.70 to arrive, 35 cases 14/20 at \$40 to arrive, 20 cases 14/20 at \$41 to arrive.

COTTON YARN—

	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.....	\$78.00 to \$109.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24.....	114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24.....	120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32.....	136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42.....	155.00 to 170.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

	per piece
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.25 to 2.35
7 lbs.	2.55 to 2.65
8.4 lbs.	3.10 to 3.85
9 to 10 lbs.	3.90 to 4.75
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.85 to 2.85
56 to 60 "	3.40 to 4.20
64 to 66 "	4.50 to 5.55
Fine.....	5.40 to 8.10
Book-folds, 4.60 to 6.50	
Victoria Lawns—12 yards.....	0.80 to 1.65
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y, 1.85 to 2.00	
7lbs. (32 "), " 2.15 to 2.40	
6lbs. (32 "), Mexs. 2.05 to 2.30	
7lbs. (32 "), " 2.65 to 3.05	
8 to 8.4 oz., (30 in.) 3.00 to 3.80	
Drills, English—40yds., 14 to 16 lbs.	4.40 to 7.30

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs.	1.55 to 5.00
Brocades—Dyed	— to —
Chintzes—Assorted	0.08½ to 0.17
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.22½ to 0.40
Velveteens—18 in.	0.20 to 0.22½

WOOLENS—

	per dozen
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.36 to 2.50	
	per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops 0.80 to 1.50	
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths 1.25 to 2.50	
	per piece
Long Ells—Scarlet.....	6.40 to 10.80
Assorted.....	6.50 to 10.10
Camlets—Assorted.....	12.50 to 32.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches } Assorted	8.00 to 20.00
Oleams—Plain	8.50 to 10.00
	per pair
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	4.00 to 18.00

METALS—

	per picul
Iron—Nail Rod	4.25 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.) 4.10 to —	
Swedish Bar	6.50 to —
Small Round Rod	5.25 to —
Hoop ½ to 1½ in.	5.75 to —
Wire 5/25.....	8.50 to —
Old Wire Rope	2.50 to —
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop 10.25 to —	
Australian	10.20 to —
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/20 oz. 48.00 to —	
Vivian's 14/20 oz. 39.00 to —	
Elliot's 14/20 oz. 39.00 to —	
Composition Nails	60.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs	41.00 to —
Tin	62.00 to —

	per box.
Tin-Plates	6.75 to
	per cwt. case
Steel 1 to 5	5.50 to
SUNDRIES—	
	per picul
Quicksilver	158.00 to 162.00
	per box
Window Glass	5.70 to
	per 10-gal. case
Kerosene Oil	2.50 to

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 26th October.—The only notable feature in the market during the week is the continued advance of Hongkong Lands. A fair general business has been transacted and rates have ruled steady.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai remain quiet with only small sales at 314 per cent. prem., the London rate being unchanged at £57. 5s. Nationals have changed hands and are still wanted at \$26.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Small lots of China Traders are wanted at \$52 ex. div. paid on the 24th inst. Unions continue on offer and Cantons in demand at quotations but without business. North Chinas have found buyers at quotations and close firm at that rate. Other stocks under this heading unchanged and with no business to report.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong Fires have been placed at \$295. Chinas continue on offer at \$80 without bringing any buyers on the market.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have ruled rather quieter with sales and sellers at \$32½. Indos with a fair demand and business have advanced to \$38 after sales at \$37½. Douglas have remained on offer at \$41, but a small demand at \$40 has not been satisfied. China Manilas and China Mutuals unchanged and without business.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars remain steady to firm at \$107. Luzons remain unchanged and without business.

MINING.—Panjoms continue on offer and the rate has declined to \$2.85 without inducing buyers to come forward. Raubs with a few settlement shares forced on the market have ruled weaker with sellers at \$55 and reported lower sales. Jebebus have changed hands at quotation in small lots. Caledonians, Queens, and Olivers unchanged and without business. The market generally under this heading has ruled very quiet.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—H'kong and Whampoa Docks continue neglected with sellers at \$545. Kowloon Wharfs remain quiet at \$84 without sales. Wanchais are still enquired for at quotation without bringing any shares on the market.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—H'kong Lands have again been in strong demand, and a fair number of shares have changed hands at \$186, \$187, \$188, \$189, and \$190 for cash, and at \$192 and \$194 for January. Market closes steady at \$190 and at equivalent rates forward. Hotels continue neglected and entirely out of the market. West Points remain on offer at \$51, without any sales to report. Humphreys have slightly improved to \$11½ with small sales. Oriente Hotels have found buyers at \$56, and close steady at that rate.

COTTON MILLS.—Hongkongs have been placed in small lots at \$9, closing with sellers. Quotations for the Northern Mills are taken from the latest Shanghai circulars.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Inlands continue weak at \$19, with sales and sellers. Watsons, Electrics, United Asbestos, and Watkins are on offer but without business. Dairy Farms have changed hands and are enquired for at \$8½; this Company's report just published recommends payment of a dividend of \$1 per share, writing off \$4,662.14, placing to reserve \$5,000 and carrying forward \$3,085.35. La Favoritas have declined to \$625.

MEMOS.—Hongkong Electric's second call on new issue payable on 1st prox. Hongkong Cotton & S. Co., extraordinary meeting on 11th November to consider the financial position of the Company.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	[\$517½, sellers 314 p. ct. prem.,= London, £57.
China & Japan, only	24	21.
Do. deferred	21	£56s. Od.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares		\$26, buyers
B. Shares	28	\$26, buyers
Four. Shares	28	\$20.
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	21	11½.
Campbell, Moore & Co.	10	\$20.
China Prov. L. & M.	10	\$10, sellers
China Sugar	100	\$107, buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 50.
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 45.
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 50.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 375.
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 40.
Hongkong	\$100	\$9, sellers
Dairy Farm	86	84.
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	25	\$52, sellers
Green Island Cement	10	\$19, sellers
H. & C. Bakery	50	\$50.
Hongkong & C. Gas	210	\$118, buyers
Hongkong Electric	10	\$10, sales & buys.
H. H. L. Tramways	10	\$2, sellers
Hongkong Hotel	100	\$170.
Hongkong Ice	50	\$118, sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	25	\$170, buyers
Hongkong Rope	50	\$83, buyers
H. & W. Dock	125	\$170, sellers
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$45 p. ct. prem.,= \$803.25, sellers
China Fire	20	\$125, buyers
China Traders	25	\$80, sellers
Hongkong Fire	50	\$52, ex div., sales
North-China	25	\$295, sellers
Straits	20	Tls. 165, c. d., bys.
Union	50	\$1.
Yangtze	60	\$245, sales & sellers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	50	\$118, sellers
Humphreys Estate	10	\$190, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	30	\$11.75.
West Point Building	50	\$25.
Luzon Sugar	100	\$51, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fca. 250	\$35, buyers
Gt. Estn. & C'donian	3	\$250, buyers
Do. Preference	\$1	10 c., sales & sellers
Jebebu	5	40 cents
Queen's Mines Ltd.	250	\$8, sellers
Olivers Mines, A.	5	10 cents, sellers
Do. B.	5	\$24, sellers
Punjom	8	\$1.80, sellers
Do. Preference	1	\$2.90, sellers
Raubs	16s. 10d.	\$1 75 cts., sales
New Amoy Dock	100	\$55, sellers
Oriente Hotel Co., Ltd.	50	\$20, buyers
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	50	\$56, sales
China Mutual Pref.	210	\$65, sellers
China Ordinary	210	\$28, sellers
Do.	25	\$104, buyers
Douglas Steamship	50	\$101, buyers
H. Canton and M.	15	25, buyers
Indo-China S. N.	210	\$40, buyers
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	2100	\$324, sellers
Star Ferry	10	\$88, buyers
Tebrau Planting Co.	5	\$23 5s.
United Asbestos	4	\$18, sales & bys.
Do.	10	\$44.
Wanchai Warehouse	37½	\$3, sellers
Watkins, Ltd.	10	\$8, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	10	\$10.
Universal Trading Co., Ltd.	5	\$20.
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra, Limited	500	\$61, buyers
La Commercial, Ltd.	500	\$10, sellers
Hensiana, Limited	100	\$16, sellers
La Favorita, Ltd.	500	\$54, buyers

J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

FRIDAY, 26th October.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/1½
Bank Bills, on demand	2/1½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/1½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	2/1½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/1½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/1½

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand	2.64½
Credits, 4 months' sight	2.70

ON GERMANY.—

On demand	2.15½
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ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand	51½
Credits, 60 days' sight	52½

ON BOMBAY.—

Telegraphic Transfer	158½
Bank, on demand	159

ON CALCUTTA.—

Telegraphic Transfer	158½
Bank, on demand	159

ON SHANGHAI.—

Bank, at sight	71½
Private, 30 days' sight	72½

ON YOKOHAMA.—

On demand	2½ p. c. dis.
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ON MANILA.—

On demand	1 p. c. pm.
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ON SINGAPORE.—

On demand	1½ p. c. pm.
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ON BATAVIA.—

On demand	126½
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ON HAIPHONG.—

On demand	2 p. c. pm.
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ON SAIGON.—

On demand	1½ p. c. pm.
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ON BANGKOK.—

On demand	60
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SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate

GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael

SILVER, per oz.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 26th October.—During the past fortnight there has been a limited demand for tonnage, and rates, coastwise show a decline. From Saigon to this, a steamer has been closed at 18 cents per picul, which fills present requirements; to north coast Java, 38 cents per picul might be obtained for medium sized steamer; to Philippines, no demand. Java to this, 38 cents is obtainable for dry sugar. Newchwang to Canton, no tonnage is wanted, and a charter previously reported has been cancelled, owing to the scarcity of beans. Coal freights.—Moji to this, \$2.75; to Singapore, \$3.25 per ton firm and Mororan to this \$3.75 and Singapore \$4.50 per ton. Sailing vessels.—The British bark *President* has been sold for \$16,000 Mex.

The following are the settlements:—

Obi—British steamer, 1,951 tons, Moji to Singapore, \$3.25 per ton.

Claverkill—British steamer, 1,829 tons, Moji to Singapore, \$3.25 per ton.

Daphne—German steamer, 1,415 tons, Kuchinotzu to Hongkong, \$3.75 per ton.

Tartar—British steamer, 2,768 tons, Moji to Hongkong, (1,200 tons), \$2.60 per ton.

Tsintow—German steamer, 1,040 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2.75 per ton.

Ileworth—British steamer, 1,716 tons, Karatzu to Manila, \$5 per ton.

Milos—German steamer, 1,695 tons, Hongay to Hongkong, \$2 per ton.

Else—German steamer, 903 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 40 cents per picul.

Declma—German steamer, 1,145 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 18 cents per picul.

Quarta—German steamer, 1,146 tons, two ports north coast Java to Hongkong, 35 cents per picul.

Holstein—German steamer, 1,103 tons, monthly, 2/1 months, at \$7,600 per month (re-charter).

Shantung—German steamer, 1,040 tons, monthly, about 7 months, at \$9,600 per month.

Milos—German steamer, 1,695 tons, hence to Portland (Oregon) and back, \$1,350 per month.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR LONDON.—*Bombay* (str.), *Glengyle* (str.),

Malta (str.), *Idomeneus* (str.), *Ajas* (str.), *Agamemnon* (str.), *Sanuki Maru* (str.).

FOR MARSEILLES.—*Malta* (str.), *Sydney* (str.), *Sanuki Maru* (str.).

FOR BREMEN.—*Oldenburg* (str.).

FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—*Guerra* (str.),

Sarnia (str.), *Ambria* (str.), *Aragonia* (str.).

FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—*Braemar* (str.), *Idam* (str.).

FOR VANCOUVER VIA SHANGHAI.—*Empress of India* (str.).

FOR SAN FRANCISCO.—*Coptic* (str.), *Wittenberg* (str.), *Nippon Maru* (str.), *Oily of Rio de Janeiro* (str.).

FOR NEW YORK.—*Anapa* (str.), *Hullgen* (str.).

FOR AUSTRALIA.—*Changsha* (str.), *Yawala Maru* (str.).

FOR SAN DIEGO.—*Carlisle City* (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

ARRIVALS.

October—
 19, Exe, British str., from Mororan.
 20, Kwongsang, British str., from Taku.
 20, Claverley, British str., from Mahila.
 20, P. C. C. Kiao, British str., from Bangkok.
 20, P. C. Kiao, British str., from Bangkok.
 20, Anping, British str., from Shanghai.
 20, Dumblane, Italian str., from Freemantle.
 20, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
 20, Benlarig, British str., from Singapore.
 20, Belgian King, British str., from Manila.
 20, Diomed, British str., from Singapore.
 20, Feiching, British str., from Haiphong.
 20, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
 20, James Brand, British str., from Kutnang.
 20, Milos, German str., from Haiphong.
 20, Sishan, British str., from Saigon.
 21, Arratoon Apar, Brit. str., from Calcutta.
 21, Clara, German str., from Haiphong.
 21, Duke of Portland, Brit. trspt., from C'cutta.
 21, Laos, French str., from Shanghai.
 21, Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.
 21, Nippon Maru, Jap. str., from S. Francisco.
 21, Norderney, German str., from Hamburg.
 21, Suevia, German str., from Singapore.
 21, Astraea, British cruiser, from Singapore.
 21, Janus, British torpedo-boat destroyer, from Plymouth.
 21, Akashi Maru, Jap. str., from Coast Ports.
 21, St. Andrew, British trspt., from W'haiwei.
 21, Jenny, Austrian str., from Amburgo.
 22, Choysang, British str., from Canton.
 22, Changsha, British str., from Melbourne.
 22, Kwanglee, British str., from Canton.
 22, Bamberg, German str., from Moji.
 22, Wingsang, British str., from Shanghai.
 22, Ajax, British str., from Singapore.
 22, Sicilian, British transport, from Odessa.
 22, Machew, German str., from Bangkok.
 22, Holstein, German str., from Sourabaya.
 22, Menmuir, British str., from Manila.
 23, H. H. Meier, German transport, from Taku.
 23, Tonkin, French str., from Marseilles.
 23, Chiyuen, Amr. str., from Shanghai.
 23, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 23, Kaifong, British str., from Cebu.
 23, Pakshan, British str., from Bangkok.
 23, Yawata Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
 23, Hermes, Norw. str., from Hongay.
 23, Loyal, German str., from Bangkok.
 23, Shantung, British str., from Sourabaya.
 24, Hanai, French str., from Haiphong.
 24, Glengyle, British str., from Shanghai.
 24, Hoihow, British str., from Canton.
 24, Pronto, German str., from Chefoo.
 24, Chingwo, British str., from Singapore.
 24, Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.
 24, Inaba Maru, Jap. str., from Singapore.
 24, Tetartos, German str., from Manila.
 24, Hoihao, French str., from Pakhoi.
 25, Nevassa, British transport, from Taku.
 25, Anping, British str., from Canton.
 25, Thales, British str., from Swatow.
 25, Chasseloup Laubat, French cr., from Saigon.
 25, Nerbudda, Brit. trspt., from Shanhaikwan.
 25, Fausang, British str., from Java.
 25, Malta, British str., from Shanghai.
 25, Maidsura Maru, Jap. str., from Tamsui.
 25, Sultan Van Langkut, Dutch str., from Pulo Sambo.
 26, Carthage, British hospital ship, from W'haiwei.
 26, City of Cambridge, British transport, from Calcutta.
 26, Diamante, British str., from Manila.
 26, Bencutha, British str., from Shanghai.
 26, German torp.-bt. No. 91, from Shanghai.
 26, Tritos, German str., from Saigon.
 26, Descartes, French cruiser, from Taku.
 October—
 20, Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
 20, Dalhousie, British transport, for Taku.
 20, Sullberg, German str., for Chefoo.
 20, Serbia, German str., for Singapore.
 20, Hue, French str., for Kwong-chow-wan.
 20, Anping, British str., for Canton.
 20, Hsinfung, British str., for Shanghai.
 20, Taisang, British str., for Shanghai.
 20, Derawongse, German str., for Hoihow.
 21, Asturia, German str., for New York.
 21, Tamsui Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
 21, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 21, Energia, British str., for Moji.
 21, Chowfa, German str., for Swatow.

21, Woosung, British str., for Canton.
 21, Evie J. Ray, Amr. bark, for Quinhon.
 21, Candia, British str., for London.
 22, Laos, French str., for Europe.
 22, Tiger, Norw. str., for Kutchinotzu.
 22, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
 22, Claverley, British str., for Shanghai.
 22, Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., for Moji.
 22, Norderney, German str., for Tsingtau.
 22, Hailoong, British str., for Haiphong.
 22, Loongmoon, German str., for Canton.
 22, Silesia, German str., for Yokohama.
 22, Quarta, German str., for Hoihow.
 22, Jenny, Austrian str., for Kiaochow.
 23, Doric, British str., for San Francisco.
 23, Else, German str., for Vladivostok.
 23, Hongkong, French str., for Hoihow.
 23, Feiching, British str., for Haiphong.
 23, Milos, German str., for Hongay.
 23, Jeanara, British str., for Noumea (New Caledonia).
 23, Kwanglee, British str., for Shanghai.
 23, Loosok, German str., for Swatow.
 23, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
 23, Chiyuen, Amr. str., for Canton.
 23, Choysang, British str., for Swatow.
 23, Kutsang, British str., for Singapore.
 23, Sicilian, British trspt., for Vladivostok.
 23, Tonkin, French str., for Shanghai.
 24, Hermes, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 24, Empress of China, Brit. str., for Vancouver.
 24, Akashi Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
 24, Clara, German str., for Haiphong.
 24, Mausang, British str., for Sandakan.
 24, Suevia, German str., for Yokohama.
 25, Ajax, British str., for Shanghai.
 25, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
 25, Exe, British str., for Rangoon.
 25, James Brand, British str., for Shanghai.
 25, Benlarig, British str., for Nagasaki.
 25, Sishan, British str., for Swatow.
 25, Hoihow, British str., for Shanghai.
 26, Duke of Portland, British trspt., for Taku.
 26, Inaba Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 26, Menmuir, British str., for Manila.
 26, Guthrie, British str., for Australia.
 26, Chingwo, British str., for Shanghai.
 26, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
 26, Yawata Maru, Jap. str., for Australia.
 26, Nevassa, British transport, for Calcutta.
 26, Nerbudda, British transport, for Bombay.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per P. C. Kiao, from Bangkok for Corea, Consul-General Vincart.
 Per Yue sang, from Manila, Messrs. D. L. Wolf, A. McIntyre, A. Stricker, M. Schmeer, J. Percy, H. U. Schneider, B. L. Johnson, Q. Sian Li, H. F. McClaskey and Mrs. D. Drew.
 Per Nippon Maru, from San Francisco, for Hongkong, Mrs. B. M. Fay, Mrs. Coddington, Messrs. M. Lassen, B. Ford, Miss Ridley, Miss Henshall, Miss Robins, Mr. R. Schmid, Miss Duryee, Mrs. S. Lagrave, Mrs. Phelps, Miss Phelps, Mr. B. Winthrop and Hon. L. M. Robbins.
 Per Arratoon Apar, from Calcutta, &c., Mrs. Alex. A. Apar, Miss Apar, Mr. and Mrs. Waite, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Cambern, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Annable, Messrs. Meredith, Huston, Moore, Misses R. and L. Hermann and child, Messrs. Joseph, Corsane, V. M. Wynter and W. H. Roberts.
 Per Laos, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Messrs. H. E. Pollock and Smith; from Kobe, Mr. Ishihama; from Nagasaki, Messrs. Sarason, Robinson, Bavagham and Brougham; from Shanghai, Messrs. Lundholm, Ibrahim, Miss Hazel Stone, Messrs. Reiners, H. Hulson, G. W. Camser and J. R. Weckinson.
 Per Changsha, from Melbourne, via Ports, Messrs. Glass, Porr and Knight.
 Per Tonkin, from Marseilles, Mr. Andrews and family and Messrs. Pollock and Coster.
 Per Menmuir, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. M. Ellinger, Mr. and Mrs. L. Knox, Miss M. Wilson, Capt. Douglas, Messrs. Eadie and P. Catanges.
 Per Kaifong, from Cebu, Messrs. H. Turner and A. Fordich.
 Per Chiyuen, from Shanghai, Mr. Paeplov and Mrs. De Witt.
 Per Glengyle, from Shanghai, Messrs. H. H. Taylor and W. F. Stevenson.
 Per Formosa, from Tamsui, &c., Mr. R. de B. Layard.

Per Inaba Maru, from London, &c., for Hongkong, Messrs. G. H. Wakeman, Hedderwick, H. Oishi, J. McIntosh, S. Luchsenger, J. Goens, Van der Linden, T. Hayakawa and Countess Canavaroo; for Shanghai, Mrs. Forrester and Mr. A. E. Parker; for Kobe, Messrs. K. Hamaguchi, T. Kobayashi, S. Mori, M. Tamura, L. K. V. D. B. V. Heemstede, D. Ornstein, Dr. K. Morishima, Rev. T. Harada, K. Kubota, H. Takahama and S. Kuramoto; for Yokohama, Messrs. T. Ishido, R. Oda, N. Kawara, A. Meder, H. Fischer and Madame Blanco.

Per Yawata Maru, from Japan, for Hongkong, Baron Malarwiskir, Miss Y. Takahachi, Mr. J. Kirkwood, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Sharp, Mrs. Pinkerton and child and Mr. M. Mizinnori; for Manila, Col. A. C. Kelton, Messrs. H. Lyman and Bernard Cogan; for Brisbane, Mr. and Mrs. Power and Mr. E. A. Douglas; for Sydney, Countess de Hamel de Manin, Mrs. and Miss Hunter, Capt. J. Wm. James, Mr. and Mrs. W. Chicken; for Melbourne, Mr. A. J. Protheroe.

DEPARTED.

Per Tamba Maru, from Japan, for Singapore, Miss Howe and Mrs. Macmillan; for Colombo, Messrs. T. Sano and C. Asami; for Port Said, Mrs. H. O. Ermekiel and Mr. Wm. Burr; for Marseilles, Mr. T. Tokita, Dr. K. Hasegawa, Dr. and Mrs. C. Butler and Mr. H. O. Ermekiel; from Hongkong, for London, Messrs. H. Lindgreen, J. B. Mallison, J. P. Murray and J. Paterson.

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